MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1983

Israel

Prime Minister Menahem Begin again called on Jordan's King Husayn to join the autonomy talks based on the Camp David agreements and without preconditions, although he firmly rejected the possibility of any changes in or deviations from those agreements, ITIM and Jerusalem radio reported citing Begin's 29 January speech to Israeli Bonds representatives from North America. The prime minister added that Husayn would be accepted in the talks together with Palestinians "who do not take orders from the PLO," ITIM noted.

King Husayn will announce his readiness to join the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations by 1 March, THE JERUSALEM POST reported on 28 January citing a "secret" cable from U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets. Meanwhile, "practical contacts" have begun between Jordan and the United States in anticipation of King Husayn's joining the political process, according to Jerusalem radio. The two countries "apparently agreed" that the talks with Israel would be held in Washington. Husayn declared he is joining the peace negotiations without any preconditions, while the United States will ask Israel to make a similar gesture, the radio noted.

In another development President Yitzhaq Navon reportedly informed Begin on 30 January that he will not seek a second term, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. The Labor Party views Navon's expected decision as meaning that, after a self-imposed leave from public life for a limited period, he will be available to lead the Alignment in the coming elections, the paper added.

Lebanon

The Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. delegations arrived at Khaldah for the 11th round of negotiations, Beirut radio reported on 31 January. Earlier, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived on an official visit to Tunisia, where he stated in remarks broadcast by the radio that he would be happy to meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat if circumstances permit. Meanwhile, in a report on the 30 January Israeli Cabinet session, Jerusalem radio said Prime Minister Begin has not changed his view that Israel needs early warning stations in southern Lebanon. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir indicated earlier that Israel would consider alternative proposals to the stations in accordance with Israel's defense needs, the radio reported. Nevertheless, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Israeli paper MA'ARIV that, if the presence of IDF early warning stations also entails similar Syrian stations on Lebanese soil, this would be better than no Israeli presence in the security zone in southern Lebanon. The 45-km security zone should be measured from Israel's northernmost point at Metulla, he stated.

Regarding Soviet missiles in Syria, Sharon said that Israel has no reason to attack the SAM-5's and that the Israelis "have an answer" to Syria's surfact-to-surface "Scud" missiles. "I would prefer it if instead of sending missiles the Soviets talked to us," Sharon added. However, a Soviet official visiting Beirut subsequently announced that Israel must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories before talking about an Israeli-Soviet dialogue, SPA reported.

Security Situation -- An IDF soldier was killed and three others were wounded when their patrol was ambushed on 30 January in the southeastern suburbs of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. "The Lebanese front for national resistance" claimed responsibility for the attack, the radio said. IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan asserted that the attackers came from West Beirut, crossing the demarcation line between the multinational force and the IDF, IDF Radio reported.

Earlier, Druze and Christian militia engaged in violent artillery exchanges in the 'Alayh area, according to Beirut radio. Shells fell in Christian suburbs of East Beirut, the radio said. A Lebanese Forces statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon claimed that not only the Druze socialists but also the Syrian forces in upper Al-Matn were responsible for the bombardment. The radio also cited reports that the Syrians have moved SAM launchers into the hills east of Amyun in northern Lebanon.

A 28 January explosion in the Syrian-controlled town of Shtawrah killed 45 persons, Beirut radio reported. The demolished building housed the PLO's Fatah as well as the "Arab army of Lebanon," Radio Free Lebanon reported. Another explosion near the Independent Nasirite Movement -- Al-Murabitun headquarters in West Beirut also caused casualties, the radio said. The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners and the hitherto unknown "Lebanese cedar force to free Lebanon from Lebanese terrorists" both claimed responsibility for the bombings, AFP reported.

Junblatt Ready for Agreement -- Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt told the Weekly MONDAY MORNING that he is ready to sign an agreement with the Lebanese Front to end the sectarian conflict in the Ash-Shuf mountains, Beirut radio reported. Asserting that such an accord should be reached under the auspices of President Amin al-Jumayyil, Junblatt said he would not meet with Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram and he accused the Lebanese Forces or "whoever is backing them" of organizing the recent attempt on his life, according to AFP.

PLO

Fatah Revolutionary Council Statement -- The Fatah Revolutionary Council asserted its commitment to the 5 December Aden statement, which defined the activity of the Palestinian revolution, and affirmed the strengthening and consolidation of Palestinian national unity, San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported citing a statement issued by the council after meetings in Aden. In a related report, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the council unanimously affirmed that unity in different Palestinian resistance movements forms the "axis and foundation" of Arab-Palestinian combat, according to AFP. Meanwhile, an offical Palestinian source said that a decision was made during the Aden meetings to form a new PLO Executive Committee, under present Chairman 'Arafat, which will represent all factions of the Palestinian resistance, QNA reported.

Officials' Activities -- Yasir 'Arafat visited Saudi Arabia on 29 January and met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Riyadh radio reported. According to San'a' radio, the PLO leader met with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 30 January when the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the "strong" relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. Salah Khalaf left Aden for a "private" visit to Moscow and Prague, AFP noted.

Iraq-Iran War

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stated that he has no objection to meeting with Iran's Ayatollah Khomeyni "if Khomeyni does not view such a meeting as a sin" and that Iraq will do anything that spares the blood of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and brings stability to the region, Baghdad radio reported citing Husayn's 26 January news conference with Spanish and Portuguese journalists in Baghdad. In his remarks Husayn blamed Khomeyni for the war and added were it not for the ayatollah other influential circles in Iran would have been in a position to achieve peace. The Iraqi president said Iran is preparing for a new offensive in southern Iraq which he is fully confident the Iraqi Army will crush. Husayn denied the United States was sending arms to Iraq and reaffirmed that the USSR has been Iraq's main weapon supplier since the July 1968 revolution. He also denied the presence of an Egyptian Army in Iraq and said that Egyptians fighting alongside other Arabs on behalf of Iraq are "volunteers." The president also said Tariq 'Aziz was appointed foreign minister because of his competence, adding that Sa'dun Hammadi was replaced due to illness.

Iraqi fighter planes shot down an Iranian fighter plane during a 29 January dogfight in the Khowr-e Musa area, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. Meanwhile, Iranian planes bombed Iraq's Al-Bakr oil installations and shot down two Iraqi aircraft in the area, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. In another development five commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) were killed by Iraqi fire during a 29 January tour of the frontline area, according to IRNA and Tehran radio reports citing an IRGC announcement.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred with PRC Foreign Ministry adviser He Ying in Tehran on 29 January, IRNA reported. During the meeting He Ying voiced the PRC's resentment over "Soviet aggression" in Afghanistan and "U.S. aggression" in Lebanon, IRNA added. Velayati said Iran and the PRC have "suitable potential" for the expansion of bilateral relations and accepted an invitation to visit Beijing, IRNA noted.

Egypt

Mubarak Visit to U.S. -- Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali described President Husni Mubarak's talks with President Reagan and other U.S. officials as "most successful" in the political and economic spheres, Cairo radio reported citing the foreign minister's remarks to the Cairo radio mission in New York. 'Ali added that the United States fully understands Egypt's strategy to step up the Mideast peace process, which is based on the affirmation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the speeding up of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question. 'Ali added that the United States will contribute to the impelementation of Egypt's 5-year plan and that the U.S. side showed "flexibility" regarding Egypt's use of U.S. loans, the radio noted. In a later report the radio announced that Mubarak arrived in Canada on 30 January for official talks with Canadian officials.

Bethlehem Mayor's Visit -- Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din received Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj on 29 January and the two sides discussed the situation in the West Bank, according to MENA. Meanwhile, Frayj handed the Foreign Ministry a Palestinian peace document signed by 200 West Bank personalities, expressing readiness for mutual recognition with Israel, Beirut radio reported citing the magazine OCTOBER.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Emergency Arab League Meeting -- Contacts are currently beging held in many Arab states to convene an emergency session of the Arab League Council to debate the Libyan-Syrian-Iranian statement issued recently in Damascus, KUNA reported. Citing "senior official sources," KUNA added that during the meeting the Arab position will be studied in light of the tripartite statement, which conflicts with both the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty. However, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn denied that Kuwait has received any formal invitation to attend such a meeting, KUNA noted.

PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Algeria on 30 January to discuss bilateral and international relations with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, according to Algiers radio.

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FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

GF291740 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 83

["Text" of "political statement" issued 29 January on meetings of Fatah Revolutionary Council held in Aden 27-28 January]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held an ordinary session of meetings in Aden, the capital of the PDRY, 27-28 January 1983.

After a deep discussion of the political situation and its local, Arab, and international aspects as well as the challenges and plots which our people, revolution, and Arab nation are facing -- challenges and plots which the United States leads and directly implements through its racist Zionist tool and its agents -- the Revolutionary Council believes that the primary aim of these challenges and plots is to strike at our great Palestinian revolution, liquidate our cause, and destroy our people's inalienable rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state under the PLO's leadership.

The most prominent example of these challenges and plots is what is being practiced against our struggling and resisting people in our occupied territory in the way of oppression, persecution, and settlement aimed at striking at our people's action, shattering their unity, extinguishing their burning spirit of struggle, and shaking their principled and solid affiliation with their homeland, Palestine, and with their Arab nation and their struggling vanguard and sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The Revolutionary Council paused with respect, appreciation, and pride in the face of the great steadfastness of our self-sacrificing people within our occupied territories -- steadfastness that is embodied in daily struggle that neither weakens nor wanes, and by which our people demonstrate in the arena of [word indistinct] conflict that they are committed to their cause and to their inalienable national rights and are struggling with determination and courage with the PLO, their sole legitimate representative and the leader of their national struggle, thus foiling through their national awareness, their true affiliation, and the strength of their defiance all the enemy's conspiracies, plans, and objectives, particularly the civilian administration and autonomy plot.

Out of its awareness of Fatah's leadership and vanguard role, and out of its commitment to the PLO and its political programs, the Revolutionary Council believes that the forthcoming session of the PNC must be a session for a renewed surge by our great revolution, which has achieved great political and military accomplishments that constitute a strong incentive for continuing the revolutionary and liberation struggle in its various political, military, and popular forms toward the achievement of our national aims.

On the basis of the above, the Fatah Revolutionary Council asserts its commitment, in word and spirit, to the historic Aden statement in which our revolution defined the bases of its action on various levels and in which it gave the national and revolutionary response to all the U.S., Zionist, and agent plans, proposals, and plots which expropriate our inalienable national rights, including our rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital, Jerusalem.

From a position of historic responsibility, and in accordance with the historic Aden statement, the Fatah Revolutionary Council affirms the strengthening and consolidation of Palestinian national unity within and outside our occupied homeland on the basis of the unity and independence of Palestinian national decisions and the unity of the revolution within the PLO's framework so as to confront present and future challenges with all the potentials and capabilities of our people, revolution, and the masses of our Arab nation, and wage our difficult and bitter struggle to achieve the aims of our people and Arab nation.

Our great revolution, together with its loyal allies, has forged the most magnificant epic of popular and military steadfastness in our nation's contemporary history and proved through through this immortal epic its nobility and the nobility of its self-sacrificing masses as well as its ability to stand fast in the face of plots and its ability, at the present stage and in the future, to continue in its difficult road with firm and sure steps toward its national and pan-Arab aims. Our revolution affirms that armed struggle, its escalation, development, and application in all the arenas of Zionist occupation, constitutes the confrontation that destroys all plots and the pride that charts the road to freedom.

The Revolution Council expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation for the noble stand of the PDRY, its chairman, party, government, and people -- a stand that was embodied by extending all facilities to bring about the success of the great celebrations of the 18th anniversary of our glorious armed revolution, thus demonstrating that there is a solid base of cohesion in struggle for the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and that this base is strengthened by the support of the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples' support for our Arab nation's central cause, the Palestinian cause, and for the common aims of struggle that have been baptized in the blood of the two fraternal Arab peoples, the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples.

Glory to our good martyrs! Glory to our great armed Palestinian revolution! Revolution until victory!

Qatar's AR-RAYAH Report

GF291330 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 29 Jan (QNA) -- The Qatari paper AR-RAYAH has learned that the meetings of the Fatah Revolutionary Council -- which concluded early this morning in Aden -- reached unified Palestinian views for the next stage on the eve of convening the PNC. Palestinian sources stressed that it would convene in Algiers as scheduled on 14 February for invited members. Other invitations have been issued to Arab and international personalities who will attend as observers.

Dr Nabil Sha'th, the political adviser of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, pointed out that he has supervised completion of preparations with the Algerian Government to hold the meeting on time at the conference palace. He added that during its meeting the council will discuss all current issues, particularly those dealing with intensification of the military operations, controlling political action, the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, relations with Syria, the dialogue with Egypt, and the dialogue with progressive Israeli authorities.

AR-RAYAH reported that the Fatah Revolutionary Council discussed a reaffirmation of the unity for the Palestinian movement vis-a-vis campaigns that are aimed against its unity and its representation of the majority of the Palestinian people. The paper said the council discussed the dialogue with Egypt and agreed to freeze it until Egypt clearly rejects the Camp David accords.

Palestinian sources pointed out that there is general dissatisfaction with the lack of a positive response toward Palestinian rapproachement with Egypt. It is even felt that President Husni Mubarak favors the policy of the late President Anwar as-Sadat more strongly than before. According to AR-RAYAH, observers explained this by indicating that this stance ended the furor created about a possible visit by 'Arafat to Cairo, which aroused strong objections, and this will have direct effects on President Husni Mubarak's current visits to Washington.

The Revolutionary Council also discussed relations with Syria. There was unanimous approval not to escalate the current differences and to hold further talks in order to settle the differences and unite ranks vis-a-vis the Zionist aggression which is expected to be translated into new aggression against Syria and the PLO.

AR-RAYAH quoted Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Raib Ghuraym, alias Abu Mahir, as saying that he participated in the latest meetings with Syrian officials -- among whom was Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al'Halim Khaddam -- noting that there was an agreement not to escalate the situation and to continue talks in the interest of the two sides. Only Zionism and its allies benefit from the tense situation. He indicated that these meetings resulted in positive results. These results will become clear in the coming stage. The Palestinian source did not rule out that an improvement in relations will be translated shortly into a meeting between Hafiz al-Asad and 'Arafat.

The paper added that the Revolutionary Council also discussed relations with Jordan. Palestinian leaders who participated in the latest Palestinian-Jordanian meetings stressed that Jordan did not ask for authorization to represent the Palestinians in negotiations. They also stressed that relations need further meetings in order elimi-nate some of the obstacles which exist and which are reinforced by the enemies of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

Those who participated in the meeting of the Revolutionary Council affirmed that the unity with Jordan will take the form of a confederation and not federation, implying that the two countries will have their own leaders, flags, armies, and independent foreign policies. AR-RAYAH added that although the majority of the Revolutionary Council did not object to 'Arafat's latest meeting with representatives of the Israeli opposition, one of the members warned against holding further meetings because they might lead to negotiations with Zionists, and this is rejected by the Fatah political platform. One of the members of the council stressed that Matityahu Peled affirmed his Zionism after he returned to Tel Aviv and noted that he was one of the leaders of the armored force which launched a series of attacks against the Palestinian people in the past. However, this policy met with support because such incidents are regarded as violations of the Zionist entity's regulations.

AR-RAYAH asked 'Imad Shakkur, 'Arafat's press adviser for Israeli affairs and one of those who masterminded the meeting, about his views. He said that such matters require bitter struggle until they become acceptable. He pointed out that the demand for the Palestinian state in the early 1970's was a factor of division within the Palestinian ranks. Yet everybody now insists that it is needed. He said that 'Arafat's visit to the United Nations was opposed. Yet after the realization of its positive effect on the Palestinian issue in the international arena, the anniversary of this visit is now celebrated. Shakkur did not rule out that further Palestinian-Israeli meetings if the Israeli side commits itself to absolute opposition to Israel's fascist policy and if it agrees to the following main points:

A. Recognition of the Palestinian people,

B. Recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of this people;

C. Recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, which are keyed to a return to the homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state -- with its capital Jerusalem -- on the land of Palestine.

Shakkur stressed that Peled and Avneri accepted these three points in writing to 'Arafat before he announced that. [sentence as received]

The Palestinian Supreme Military Council, which is chaired by 'Arafat, stressed the escalation of military operations and armed struggle against the Zionist enemy along with political action. Colonel Abu Musa, deputy director of the operations room, told AR-RAYAH that the council concentrated on some of the administrative aspects of the Palestinian forces where these forces will clearly undergo changes in the short run and will escalate operations inside the occupied territories and behind enemy lines in Lebanon.

AR-RAYAH also noted that a Palestinian delegation under the chairmanship of Mahmud 'Abbas and consisting of a number of resistance officers is currently visiting the Soviet Union in order to execute the agreements which 'Arafat concluded in his latest discussions with Soviet leader Andropov whom the Palestinian sources referred to as being serious in developing Soviet aid to the Palestinian resistance and Syria in the confrontation against Israeli aggression and the U.S. threat.

The paper quoted Palestinian sources as saying that Palestinian national unity has been affirmed in many meetings with the secretary generals of the Palestinian factions. The obstacle of the Tripoli statement was overcome and there was unanimous support for the National Council and agreement on many common points that surpassed all efforts to undermine Palestinian national unity -- which was witnessed in the battles of Lebanon.

On current political moves, the mayor of Halhul, Muhammad Milhim, told AR-RAYAH that he is ready to accept any Palestinian decision that includes him in the membership of the Arab seven-member committee. He also affirmed his commitment to the PLO line.

Palestinian sources unveiled a British formula that was discussed with 'Arafat recently before his departure for Morocco. This formula calls for inclusion of Milhim in the membership of the committee. This point was discussed by the Executive Committee recently. It seems that there is an inclination to consider that since Milhim is one of the PLO members, as a member of the delegation he will meet with Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Thatcher, and Foreign Secretary Pym.

New PLO Committee

GF291048 Doha QNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jan (QNA) -- An official Palestinian source has said that during the meetings in Aden which ended early today, a decision was made to introduce radical changes in the Palestinian leadership. Among the most important changes is the formation of a new PLO Executive Committee under its present chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, the Palestinian source said that the new committee will represent all factions of the Palestinian resistance. He said that the next stage requires a strong and firm leadership and that the Aden meetings reached an agreement in this regard. He added that during the meetings Yasir 'Arafat was given the freedom to act and maneuver in various fields.

AL-WATAN also reports that Yasir 'Arafat has postponed a visit he was scheduled to make to San'a'.

Salah Khalaf Comments

NC290812 Paris AFP in English 0747 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Aden, South Yemen, Jan 29 (AFP) -- The Revolutionary Council of AL-FATAH has "unanimously affirmed that unity in the different Palestinian resistance movements forms the "axis and the foundation of Arab-Palestinian combat," council member Salah Khalaf said here (?today). Mr Khalaf, who also goes under the name of Abu Iyad, said the Palestinian National Council (PNC, the Palestinian parliament) will convene in Algiers on February 14 to "emphasize that no force has the power to use the Palestinians."

The Central Committee and Revolutionary Committee of Al-Fatah, the principal group within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), met here yesterday to prepare for preliminary meetings with other Palestinian groups which will start in Algiers on February 10, four days before the opening of the PNC.

Concerning a proposal from certain segments of Al-Fatah that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat be given broader powers, Mr Khalaf said, "Yasir 'Arafat does not need more or less power than has already been delegated to him."

A full communique of Al-Fatah's Revolutionary Council meeting will be distributed today.

After the end of the meeting, Abu Jihad, the voice commander of Palestinian forces, left for a "private" visit to Moscow and Prague.

The PLO Executive Committee, the Supreme Military Council and Al-Fatah elements have been in Aden since January 14, when the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution was celebrated.

CONTACTS UNDERWAY FOR ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

LD300948 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0903 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Amman, 30 Jan (KUNA) -- It was reported here today that contacts are currently taking place among a large number of Arab capitals to convene an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council with the purpose of debating a statement issued last week by Syria, Libya, and Iran directed mainly against Iraq.

Senior official sources told KUNA that during this meeting "all aspects of the Arab position will be studied in light of the statement, which conflicts with the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense treaty."

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES PLO'S YASIR 'ABD RABBUH

LD291341 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1235 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Jan (KUNA) -- Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad today discussed with a prominent Palestinian official the development of the Palestinian question. An official source has stated that Shaykh Sabah discussed with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who arrived here the night before last from Aden, the subjects discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee and the Military Council held last week in the South Yemen capital. No additional details are available about the subjects discussed.

SAUDI ARABIA

PLO'S 'ARAFAT, OTHERS MEET WITH KING FAHD 29 JAN

LD292216 Riyahd SPA in Arabic 1932 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Jiddah, 29 Jan (SPA) -- At 2130 this evening His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at the royal palace in Jiddah. Present at this meeting were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Salah Khalaf, member of the PLO Central Committee; Faruq Qaddumi head of the PLO Political Department; Khalid al-Hasan, member of the PLO Central Committee; and Rafiq an-Natshan, PLO representative in the Kingdom. They all dined with his majesty.

NEED FOR REAGAN EFFORTS IN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CITED

LD291332 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir commentary in "Analysis" program]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak warned at the conclusion of his visit to Washington that time was the decisive and crucial factor for the success of efforts being exerted and that Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon heads the list of all priorities. He said there is a golden opportunity which should not be missed. This warning is extremely proper and the U.S. President should give it all the attention it deserves, particularly as he is facing an election campaign which will prevent him from attending to anything else.

In his reply, the U.S. President affirmed his determination to guarantee independence, security, and territorial integrity for Lebanon and to bring about a comprehensive peaceful settlement which would guarantee the Palestinian people their rights. If the U.S. President said this out of conviction and determination, as he himself said, then the time factor has become the touchstone. This is because, as we have already said, elections make it imperative that efforts to solve the issue be speeded up. Furthermore, and this is the more important, Israel's stubbornness and insistence on impossible demands are matters which demand that the U.S. President should intervene actively to put an end to them, not be words alone but by pressure. Washington is in a position to do so, particularly after Reagan put forward his plan -- which will remain mere ink on paper in view of Israel's aggression unless practical steps are taken to help its implementation.

Experience has shown that this could never be achieved as long as Israel persists with its aggressive and expansionist policy, which has become even more ferocious and more hungry following the Reagan plan and the Arab peace plan.

If Reagan's patience has run out, as his confidents say, because of deadlock due to Israel's stubbornness in the tripartite talks on the question of withdrawal from Lebanon, then it must be said that the situation demands a firmer stand in dealing with Israel which has become used to all that constant pampering by Washington.

What is Reagan waiting for, with the favorable opportunity still open to him? Through their peace plan, the Arabs have proven in deed the sincerity of their true quest for a peaceful solution of the Middle East question. The movements of the Arab seven-member committee and other related Arab moves on the various fields provide yet additional sure proof of this. Furthermore, the world has responded to the peace plans, blessed them, and declared their readiness to support them and has overwhelming and openly denounced Israel, particularly after its invasion of Lebanon and consolidation of its plans to build settlements. In addition, there is yet another matter which is most important: Palestinian flexibility in dealing with events and reality in the quest for the desire solution to their cause. This incidentally, is flexibility and not squandering. But, in any case, it is imperative for the U.S. President to give it the attention i deserves, and begin to tackle the cause and deal with the PLO in a new spirit and a new momentum.

All these positive factors makes it imperative for Reagan to seize this golden opportunity, as the Egyptian president has called it, to seek in deed the means for a peaceful solution before it is too late.

UAE

OIL PRODUCTION TO INCREASE BY 45 PERCENT

GF291125 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jan 83 p 11

[Excerpts] The UAE says it will increase its oil proudction 45 percent to meet aggressive competition from other members of OPEC.

"I can almsot see now in front of my eyes" a cut in the price of Gulf crude said Oil Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

He said that after the failure of the oil cartel to agree on production quotas at a meeting in Geneva last weekend, the Gulf Arab states were starting to "raise production to the levels required by our national and Arab commitments."

"Some OPEC states have started pumping additional quantities of oil at lowered prices," he said.

Al-'Utaybah said his country was raising its daily production from 1.1 million barrels to 1.6 million.

He said the production of Saudi Arabia was now at an all-time low of four million barrels daily, in contrast with a high of 10 million barrels. However, he gave no indication that the Saudis plan an increase.

Al-'Uyaybah said his country reduced its daily production from 2.2 million barrels "as a contribution toward a solution to the world glut."

But he said his government had a deficit of $1.2 billion in its current accounts budget this year and faced "double that deficit."

YAR

'ARAFAT ARRIVES, MEETS OFFICIALS 30 JANUARY

GF301342 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] A meeting was held at the general command headquarters today between Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

The meeting was attended on the YAR side by Judge'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly and member of the Standing Committee; and Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee. The meeting was attended on the Palestinina side by Brother Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad; Brother Khalid al-Hasan, Abu as-Sa'id, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative [in San'a'].

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments on the Palestinian issue and in the current Arab and international situation and discussed the strong relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the means to continue cooperation between them.

Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat arrived in San'a' this morning accompanied by Brother Abu Iyad and Abu as-Sa'id.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said his talks with the brother president will deal with the latest developments on the Palestinian issue and the way to deal with this difficult stage through which our Arab nation is passing at the time when the Zionist enemy is escalating its aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and after the threats which Sharon recently made on launching a military action in Al-Biqa' and in northern Lebanon.

In his statement, Brother Yasir 'Arafat noted that the Palestinian military parade which was held in the southern part of the homeland on the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution was the implementation of one of the resolutions of the Supreme Palestinian Military Council which was held in San'a' recently. He affirmed that this was a reflection of the Palestinian revolution's strong ability to reorganize its ranks and to regain its readiness on various levels for the next stage.

Yasir 'Arafat was received on arrival by Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of senior civil and military officials.

Departs 31 January

GF310814 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Struggling Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left San'a' early this morning following a short visit during which he met with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother 'Arafat said that he briefed the YAR president on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and that (?they discussed) the Zionist statement by Zionist minister of war Ariel Sharon on crushing military operations in Al-Biqa'. Struggler 'Arafat affirmed that the Yemeni leadership headed by Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, showed full understanding of all issues discussed.

MUBARAK ADDRESSES U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

NC281909 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] New York, 28 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has delivered a speech before the U.S. Foreign Policy Association in New York. The text of President Mubarak's speech follows:

Mr President, dear friends: Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality. I consider this honor as directed toward Egypt and its people more than it is directed toward me. It also testifies to the profound friendship and increasing cooperation between our two countries. We highly appreciate our friendship with the American people and consider it as an asset to every one of us.

We arrived in New York a few hours ago. Nevertheless, the city and its people have left a deep impression on us. One can now understand why the city of New York is considered the correct address for the United States. And I am not only referring to the material aspects of the city alone. But the thing which is more dazzling about this city is its cultural influence and the intellectual challenge it represents. I do not intend to compete with our friend Henry Kissinger's theoretical analysis of world policy, which is, of course, the subject of agreement or disagreement.

I will burden you if I embark on a comprehensive study of internaitonal events and their influence on our lives. Therefore, I suggest that this review be concise so that you may join me in my views on the best ways nations can confront the terrifying challenges of our age. Allow me to concentrate in particular on our area: the Middle East.

By virtue of my upbringing and nature I do not like to reiterate slogans and make exaggerated statements. Words, however sweet and beautiful they may be, should not be used to create a world of illusions or to cover aspects of our shortcomings. One might dream of a better life on the personal and collective levels, but we must not submit to illusions. Our goals must be specific, realistic, and achievable.

We naturally can change the existing conditions through a sound outlook and determination. The essence of life lies in progress and continuous development. In order to achieve this, words must be linked to deeds and genuinely reflect man's feelings and visualization of what can actually be achieved in the future. Otherwise, we will be deceiving ourselves and those who granted us their confidence at home and abroad.

It is nonsense to say that conflict is an inherent part of our international life. The interests which dominate our thoughts in some cases agree and in many cases disagree.

The conflict of interests has generated bitter struggle since the beginning of creation. Consequently, it will be an illusion to talk about completely ending the conflict. We must seek to reduce tensions and make conflicts disposed to treatment. This will by necessity expand the scope of cooperation among nations.

Within this framework, our sacred duty is to work for world peace. We cannot absolve ourselves of this duty by merely declaring our positions for the record only. Every state must take tangible steps in the right direction. The key to success in this endeavor lies in ascertaining that such steps will not threaten national security. One must admit that there is always a certain degree of risk. However, this risk must be reduced to the minimum.

In recent months, many propoals have been made here and there with a view to stopping the arms race and limiting the possibilities of a nuclear war.

We support the substance of these proposals and believe that it will be possible to find the common ground necessary for bringing the goals closer together. The existence of mankind is in danger. We must spare no efforts to reach an agreement in this respect.

Our capability to face the huge world economic problems today, be these local or international, is no less vital in its importance for the survival of mankind.

The sound administration of the economy has become a real test and challenge to all governments regardless of their social and political systems. In this respect, the real test of the present international system to survive lies in our ability to create a new economic system that better meets our collective needs. A larger degree of justice and equality must also be achieved. This requires an amount of cooperation between North and South. The starting point for the two sides in this field is achieving further mutual reliance among the nations in the four corners of the world. This phenomenonon is more apparent in the economic situation. Today more than at any time before no nation can live in isolation from the rest of the world or fortify itself alone against economic recession and stagnation.

We should work together in harmony and with all strength. The conflict between North and South must be settled not through confrontation but in a spirit of conciliation and partnership. [passage indistinct] The gap between the rich and the poor must also be narrowed. It is necessary to search for new cources of energy before the present sources are exhausted. Solar energy, wind energy, and recycled energy must be provided for those who possess and those who do not possess in this age because we can no longer tolerate further practices of monopolism and exploitation.

Mr President, I believe that one should apply what he preaches if we want to arrive at our goals. Egypt strongly adheres to the foregoing principles in directing its foreign policy.

We extend a hand of friendship to all nations without discrimination. All that we call for is reciprocal treatment, noninterference in our domestic affairs, and respect for our independence. We do not play one state against the other. We stand against polarization and spheres of influence because such wrong tactics will have adverse and destructive results in the long run.

Our relations with the United States are a model of a healthy cooperation and fruitful mutual treatment. The American people have proven under various circumstances that they are real friends. They have shown a great interest in the making of peace in the Middle East. They are likewise interested in the same degree in assisting the peoples in the area in overcoming their economic problems and in modernizing their production systems. Many U.S. presidents have carried out a principal role in promoting peace between Israel and Arab nation.

This constructive U.S. role acquired new dimensions when President Reagan announced his initiative on 1 September 1982. It is a well balanced and very well thought-out plan and it will inevitably strengthen the opportunities for peace and stability in the Middle East.

On the other hand, it may lead to improvement of the United States's image in this strategic part of the world.

I find President Reagan wise and courageous and truly appreative of the need to strengthen peace. He tackles these intricate problems with an open mind and a strong will.

Dear friends, an objective study of the situation in the Middle East will certainly disclose the depth of the tragedy which is still taking place in Lebanon. This small country and its courageous people were deprived of their basic right to a free and secure life.

The Israeli invasion, which resulted in a long-lasting occupation, threatens the state of Lebanon as a whole with destruction and chaos and also leads to gradual collapse of the state's power.

In 1977, when we took the peace initiative with your support, the dominant assumption was that 1973 war should be the last war between the Arabs and Israel, but this assumption was dispelled in the summer of 1982.

In the framework for peace in the Middle East, which was signed on 17 September 1978, we agreed that we should abide by the UN Charter's provisions and the other principles of international law and international legitimacy.

We have also affirmed that peace necessities respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of each country in the area. We have agreed as well that our objective is the realization of the good-neighborly relations. It is obvious that the Israeli invasion has violated all these provisions in letter and spirit. Peace in the Galilee or any other part of Israel can be secured not through invasion but through lessening tension and building bridges of friendship with Lebanon, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Syria.

The Lebanese leadership is shouldering a heavy responsibility under very difficult conditions because it not only struggles for restoration of state authority but also and primarily for the restoration of confidence in the future by its tortured people. Lebanon needs encouragement and not being subject to pressures. Israeli officials, not a long time ago, were used to repeating that peace can not be imposed and they should apply this rule while submitting their demands to the Lebanese Government. What is requried is a gradual transition process supported by a popular will. The United States in particular is well qualified to help realize this objective without affecting the balance among the parties.

Immediately, after realizing that, we ought to move without delay to tackle the Palestinian issue, as failure in realizing this will surely lead to impeding the continued efforts being exerted by us and by the United States for long years now.

In this respect, I would like to tell you that I received very encouraging signs from Jordan's King Husayn and from Yasir 'Arafat immediately prior to my departure from Cairo.

I am fully confident that there is a golden opportunity which we should not miss and this moderate tendency must be encouraged and reinforced. It is clear that Jordan and the Palestinians have done much in this respect and Israel should reciprocate before it is too late.

I know that it has become a characteristic habit of any official to say that time has become crucial, in terms of either now or never. In fact, time has become decisive in this particular case. We are trying to convince the conflicting parties that time is working against them all. On the Arab side, there is the threat of demographic changes which are taking place all over the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the Israeli colonization policy. On the other hand, if Israel is really interested in living in peace with the Arabs, that will consequently mean that the lapse of time without achieving progress will lead to harming Israeli interests in the long run.

The message which we are conveying is clear. We must not give the radical elements on both sides more time to harm the chances of peace.

The Israelis must convince themselves to accept the fact that they cannot annex the West Bank and Gaza because none of the Arabs will accept that and world public opinion is also strongly against it.

It seems that the Jewish communities in various parts of the world have become more understanding and supportive of Palestinian rights and aspirations. This could have a clear indication. We are happy to note the positive response on the part of American Jews. The attitude adopted by many Israelis is no less important.

A few days ago, Yasir 'Arafat met with three Israeli public figures to discuss peace. We fully support that. We can truly say that the majority of the Arabs, and particularly the Palestinians, accept the idea of gradual change and transitional shift. The establishment of a transitional system can lay down the basis for coexistence between the Palestinians and the Israelis on basis of friendship and good neighborliness. At the end of this period, the Palestinians should be enabled to exercise their divine right of self-determination.

In order for this to be achieved, the Israeli settlement activities should be completely stopped. These activities are illegal. They also constitute an obstacle in the way of peace. What is more important, they represent a precondition which blocks the way to any meaningful negotiations.

There has been talk recently about Egyptian-Israeli relations. Let me say it frankly that when we established peace with Israel as a first step toward a comprehensive settlement we meant every word we said, since we do not take such matters lightly. Peace for us is a strategic objective and not a tactical move.

Consequently, we shall respect all our commitments and continue to support peace. There is no going back on this policy. It should be clear in our minds that peace and normalization do not give any of the two sides a special status.

The essence of normalization is that the two sides' treatment of each other is the same as their treatment of third parties -- no more, no less. If one of the two sides is unhappy with the other side, it is entitled to resort to the internationally known methods to express its viewpoint. If the Egyptian Government is subjected to strong criticism in the Egyptian information media, how can the Israel Government be given immunity against such criticism?

We must always take into consideration that we are investing much in peace. This might occasionally prompt us to take a strong stand toward one side or the other. Danger will be grave if we take a negative or unconcerned stand.

The basic element actually is that we make a distinction between criticism of Israel's political behavior and maintaining good relations with the Israeli people. We have addressed greetings to those conscientious Israelis who demonstrated in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem against the continuation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Israeli intellectuals participate with Egyptian teachers in seminars and other academic activities which aim at improving the quality of life in the area. The borders are open for creative exchange between the two countries' citizens.

You might be interested to know that while it has been complaining about the Egyptian behavior, Israel found it suitable to introduce an element of dispute and friction. Before completing its withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982, Israel made a surprise move by challenging the established situation and the established border marking near Tabah, on the Gulf of 'Aqaba. Despite our belief that the submission of such claim at the last moment is unjustified, we agreed on 25 April and with the participation of the United States to a formula for settling the matter through conciliation or arbitration.

The two sides were supposed to abide by certain restrictions until this problem is settled, but Israel violated these commitments and undertook unilateral actions in a provocative manner. Moreover, it did not respond to our demand to submit the matter to conciliation in accordance with the 25 April agreement.

Nevertheless, we did not respond to the provocation and did not shift our attention away from the strategic objectives. In the coming weeks and months we shall actively work with the United States to achieve progress on two fronts at the same time:

The first is to arrive at an agreement on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon with security arrangements for each side.

The second is to pave the way for the start of negotiations on the establishment of a transitional authority in the West Bank and Gaza.

If Israel responds positively to our efforts and if it siezes the opportunity to take another historic step on the path of peace -- something which we hope it will do -- that will lead to the start of a new era of peace and stability.

I realize that it is not easy for us to remain optimistic in an era which has been devoid of stability and security. Anyhow, I still uphold hope and confidence.

The challenge may be great, but our determination and resolve are also great. I assure you that I shall spare no effort to make the Middle East more peaceful and secure. I am prepared to take the necessary risks and shoulder the burden if I see that we are proceeding on the sound path and getting near to our objectives.

My firm belief is that we must concentrate on the future and its prospects instead of being hindered by the past and its troubles. This philosophy applies in particular to the Middle East. There are extensive resources and huge potentials which can be explored and exploited well. It is also necessary to study the benefits to the people to ensure regular and stable development.

The Arab world has before it a historical role and message to perform through unity and solidarity because this is the shortest way to achieve progress and aspirations. If we succeed in solving the Palestine problem in the near future -- which I hope will be achieved -- a new dawn will rise in the whole area.

Egypt's role is indispensable here. I need not enumerate its qualifications in this respect because they are known to everyone. Suffice to say that Egypt is qualified in a unique way to become the main pillar for stability and progress.

Egypt's ability to absorb modern technology puts it in the service of Third World states, and Egypt can embark on its role as a bridge conveying the know-how between the developed and the developing states -- a role which it has always carried out. The 2.5 million Egyptians working in the Arab states and the thousands of workers in the African countries represent a part of this effort.

On the other hand, the integration charter between Egypt and Sudan can be regarded as a model of cooperation and of strengthening the relations among Third World states. It will strengthen the capability of the two states to exploit their hidden resources to the furthest extent. It also represents an element of equilibrium in forming the political geography of the Middle East. This does not mean being noncommittal; in fact this role has its roots and foundations in placing Egypt as a principal Arab and African state. This fact alone puts Egypt in a unique responsible position as a shield against foreign aggression and interference.

We harbor no ill feeling toward any people inside or outside the area. The differences in views or the political conflicts are but a temporary phenomenon which should not block the road to the future. In light of this, the Iranian regime's stance regarding its Arab neighbors must be viewed as a tactical development, not a strategic contradiction. The continuation of military operations against Iraq are but futile practices. There is absolutely no place for an attempt to overthrow the Iraqi regime because the Iraqi people alone have the right to elect the government they choose.

Likewise, it is a grave mistake to think of using force or subversive actions in propagating the Iranian regime's strange interpretation of Islam. The core and essence of this faith is forebearance and freedom of choice, but fanaticism is completely alien to Islam, whether as a religion or an ideology. Islam calls for creative interaction and dialogue among nations. It is against isolation and against imposing barriers to restrict the freedom of movement of persons and ideas.

We cannot waste our revenues on futile adventures and wars at a time when the efforts for vital development need all the revenue which we can provide or more.

It is time that we pledge to stand together, not against one another. We will triumph, God willing. Thank you.

Mubarak Questioned by Association

NC290909 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] New York, 11 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has said that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil gave him a message for U.S. President Ronald Reagan requesting that the United States deal with the Lebanese problem as a full partner, similar to what happened at Camp David.

This was contained in President Mubarak's replies to questions posed by those present during the ceremony held for him by members of the U.S. Foreign Policy Association during which they heard a lecture by President Mubarak in which he dealt with the political situation in the Middle East and the Egyptian efforts to give impetus to the peace process and solve the area's problems.

President Mubarak said that the war between Iraq and Iran is a sad affair and that we are against any form of war and object to the forceful annexation of territories. He added that the war between the two countries will lead to the deterioration of their economies. He said that both countries are now facing a difficult economic situation although up to now they have not felt the effect of the war of attrition they have started, but that they will feel it later and that we have had similar experiences. The president added: We, "and this is no secret," help Iraq, despite the fact that we are against war. Since Iraq has announced its readiness to withdraw and has actually withdrawn to its international borders, then the ball is now in Iran's court and everyone has to work to put an end to this war. If this does not happen, then catastrophe is certain to befall all and its effect will encompass the area, the Gulf states, and Egypt and it will jeopardize U.S. interests in the area. Therefore, the United States must play a basic role to end this problem.

Replying to a question on whether U.S. President Reagan's initiative cancels the Camp David agreement, the president said: The United States is the best country to answer this question because the Camp David agreement was signed by the leaders of three countries, including the United States, the late President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

As to President Reagan's initiative, it is a constructive initiative and I consider it a development of the Camp David agreement, which we must not ignore because it is the document to which Israel has adhered up to now.

On the coming phase in the peace process and King Husayn's conditions to participate in the negotiations with Israel, President Mubarak said: King Husayn has visited the United States and has met with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. There is a big endeavor to persuade King Husayn to sit at the negotiating table to start discussing all aspects of the problem. He urged King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to sit together and agree between themselves to find a link between the two sides that would help the Palestinians participate in the Jordanian delegation so as to enable the United States to start the negotiations.

President Mubarak, Referring to Egypt-Arab relations, which were affected after the peace initiative and the Camp David agreement, said: Despite this, we believe in the peace process and consider that peace is a strategic and not a tactical goal. The president said: Egypt has started a new epoch with its Arab brothers, but they are still shackled with the Baghdad resolutions. Despite this, we have relations with some Arab states and there are contacts among Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Jordan, the PLO, and some moderate Arab states. But these contacts are taking place with caution and the question of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arabs is a matter of time.

On whether there is a role for the Soviets to play in solving the Middle East problem, President Mubarak said: The Soviets have not had a role up to now. The efforts are confined within the framework of the Arabs, the United States, and Israel. We have not seen up to now any effective role for the Soviets to solve the problem.

On Egypt's relations with the African states, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Egypt has extremely good relations with most of the continent's states, with the exception of one or two.

Replying to a question on relations with Ethiopia and Sudan in particular, President Mubarak said: We have full relations with Ethiopia, which has an embassy and an ambassador in Egypt, and we have an embassy and ambassador in Ethiopia. There is nothing disturbing the relations between the two countries. As for Sudan, we have recently signed with it an agreement for coordination and integration, and we intend to continue its application so as to serve the interests of the two countries and the area.

On the effect of peace on economic progress in Egypt, President Mubarak said: We are facing economic problems at present, but we are not the only country facing such problems. There are similar problems in all countries of the world, including Europe and the United States itself. Last year we convened a big economic conference during which we reached important results in light of which the new 5-year development plan was drawn up -- the plan which was endorsed by the People's Assembly 2 weeks ago.

President Mubarak said that Egypt has started to proceed on a sound course toward solving its economic problems while realizing that solving such problems will not take place overnight.

On the population explosion and the problem of food in Egypt, the president said: we have initiated many agricultural projects as well as ways to improve the means of production since President as-Sadat's era.

We are still working within the framework of the 5-year plan to increase production, and when we achieve the desired results, we will start exporting.

President Husni Mubarak said that it has been decided to convene a conference in July to discuss the question of the population explosion -- the problem which is consuming all our production.

Replying to a question on the future of OPEC and the effect of this on the Middle East, President Mubarak said: The reduction of oil prices will affect the states of the Third World countries and the entire world. Moreover, the reduction of royalties will have negative effects on the development plans of the nascent countries.

At the beginning of the ceremony, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger introduced President Mubarak to those present by giving an address in which he commended the role President Mubarak is playing for the sake of peace as well as the efforts he is exerting for the sake of the Arab issue.

The ceremony was attended by about 1,100 members of the U.S. Foreign Policy Association. It was attended on the Egyptian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, International Investment and Cooperation Minister Wajih Shindi, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mustafa as-Sa'id, Planning Minister Kamal al-Janzuri, Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal, and Egyptian permanent representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil. It was also attended by some U.S. politicians, namely, William Rogers, Cyrus Vance, Henry Kissinger, and New York Mayor Edward Koch.

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS U.S. TALKS 'SUCCESSFUL'

NC292229 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told the Cairo radio mission in New York that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington with U.S. President Reagan and U.S. officials have been most successful in the political and economic fields.

'Ali said that the U.S. side fully understood Egypt's strategy to push the peace process in the Middle East, which is based on two axes:

1. The affirmation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the speeding up of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

2. The achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question based on equality and justice to all peoples in the area, including the Palestinian people.

'Ali added: The U.S. side will contribute in a positive way in supporting the 5-year plan which Egypt is implementing. In this connection, intensive talks have been held with the Egyptian economic group which includes the ministers of planning, economy, foreign trade, investment, and international cooperation. The U.S. side showed flexibility toward Egypt's request to dispose with the loans which the United States grants Egypt for use in economic and social development projects.

Meanwhile, Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and the director of the president's office for political affairs, said that the question of Tabah has been explained to the U.S. side in a manner that leaves no doubt about Egypt's right to this area and that there will be no bargaining over Tabah in any way.

In his statement to the Cairo radio mission in New York, Dr al-Baz added that the Egyptian request regarding the necessity of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is one of the basic matters Egypt adheres to concerning the future of the negotiations on the Palestine question.

OCTOBER MAGAZINE ON PALESTINIAN PEACE DOCUMENT

NC291420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] The Egyptian magazine OCTOBER reports today that Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has handed the Egyptian Foreign Ministry a Palestinian peace document signed by 200 West Bank personalities, expressing readiness for mutual recognition with Israel.

The magazine said that the document approves the positive elements in U.S. President Reagan's peace initiative and emphasizes that the PLO is the official representative of the Palestinian people. The magazine said that Frayj handed the document to Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali last Tuesday, on the eve of his departure for Washington in the company of President Mubarak. The document also approves the principle of negotiations with Israel and calls for freezing the construction of settlements and for coordination with Jordan.

It is not known if the Egyptian minister has conveyed this document to the U.S. authorities during the talks he has had in Washington during his visit accompanying President Mubarak.

'ALI SAYS ISRAEL VIOLATES CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

NC281939 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told the Cairo radio mission in Washington that the talks of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ronald Reagan delt with the efforts for solving the Palestinian problem and with Egypt's efforts with various parties in this respect. He said there is an identity of Egyptian and U.S. views on the need for speeding up a solution to the problem and of urging all the parties, including Israel, to proceed along this course. He added that efforts are centered on the importance of stopping Israel from building settlements. He said Israel is violating the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords because of its continued actions against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and its obstruction of the withdrawal from Lebanon.

SADDAM HUSAYN MEETS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

JN292015 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Press conference given by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn with Spanish and Portuguese journalists in Baghdad on 26 January 1983, questions in Spanish or Portuguese answered in Arabic with sentence-by-sentence translation of both -- recorded]

[Text] [Saddam Husayn] You are welcome here today. We are meeting with media representatives from two friendly countries. I hope our friends in Portugal will not be displeased when I say that although Spain and Portugal are both friends, Spain has an advanced relationship with Iraq for historical reasons which you all know and for reasons connected with modern times. However, both are friends of Iraq, which is eager to develop and deepen its relationships with them. This feeling is also that of the leaders of both countries. You are all welcome as friends in Baghdad.

After these welcoming remarks, we are now prepared for your questions which we hope will reflect your desire to know what you do not know about Iraqi policy in addition to other subjects that you may want to understand.

[Question] Mr President, I am lucky to have visited Iraq several times. This is the first time that I have met with you. You are enjoying good health...

[Saddam interrupts] Because of the war. When you have a war, you cannot get ill, not until the war is over.

[Question] I have known this country for many years. We would like to know your methods of work. I have read your speeches and I want to surprise you by saying that because of our Western mentality, it seems to us that due to respect for leadership, sometimes you are called a charismatic leader, a hero leader. These descriptions have not been mentioned in this country before. In Italy it is said that there are people who are more Catholic than the pope. Is this true in Iraq?

[Answer] In one way or another, yes. Why? According to our understanding of Western mentality, let us assume that a man attempts to find a wife or a woman looks for a husband. Even a friend wants to find a worthy friend. He finds such a friend and later discovers that he is a traitor. He befriends another and finds that he exploits this friendship in one way or another. He tries to make friends with many people but always meets with frustration. When he finds a friend and discovers in him all the values he was looking for, he commits himself to this friendship more than this [word indistinct] is worth, but within the framework deserved by this friendship. This is the relationship between the Iraqis and myself. They have tried everything.

You know, Baghdad at one time was a beacon of knowledge and light. You know that Iraq was where human civilization started and was the first country to teach the humanity side of human knowledge thousands of years ago. However, for reasons which we do not want to discuss, Iraq was the target for foreign powers. When it was attacked, it was crushed for hundreds of years and isolated from its national and humanitarian role.

Iraq lived in darkness for well over 800 years, until the ignition of the July 1968 Revolution. This dark era was caused by either foreign rule or by regimes which were supposed to be Iraq regimes. The sparks which were ignited by these regimes were so big that they destroyed vast areas of Iraq. The results of both rules, however, were similar. The Iraqis paid a high price for these bitter experiences which directly affected their security, their humanitarian and pan-Arab role, and their dignity, as well as their national independent identity.

It seems that the Iraqis found our that Saddam Husayn is totally different from all their other experiences. They sensed that Saddam Husayn is part of them and that he cares for them. They also sensed that Husayn's mistakes are usually unintentional, that he does not seek foreigners' advice, and that he always seeks to protect their loftiness, dignity, and prosperous and stable life.

This is my way of thinking. You can find out for yourselves; you can ask the simple people, be it the peasant, the worker, the taxidriver, elementary school student, or shaykhs and the elderly. You will find out that all of them give you the same answer, though they may express it differently. At any rate, this Iraqi situation would only render us more modest and more capable -- a balanced capability and not an empty one. Our primary objective is to render better service to Iraq and the Arab nation as well as to mankind, and this of course depends on the circumstances. This is my answer.

[Question] I can sense some [word indistinct] in your words. To what extent has the continuation of the war affected political life in Iraq, the revolution's achievements, and the party's political future? In this context, what is the significance of the appointment of Tariq 'Aziz as foreign minister and the person in charge of foreign affairs?

[Answer] The war means the transfer of the relationship between the combatant sides to the stage of a bloody struggle. The two sides resort to such methods in order to attain their objectives. War is not a normal state of affairs but is an exceptional state of international relations. Since war represents a state of emergency, it is natural that this state has political, economic, legal, cultural, and other repercussions. These repercussions often produce results. Some nations [words indistinct].

The living and vigilant nations can derive the most profound lessons for the sake of development and technical construction. We lost and still are losing men in this war. They are noble men of special character. The war has its own influence on the economic situation. But, at the same time, our modern man is developed and is completely different from the one who existed before. Our modern Iraqi is more enduring, more precise, more energetic, and better prepared to meet responsibility. The bases of the revolution's faithful men has expanded and covers all Iraq. The base of reserve leaders -- both in the civilian and military life -- has increased. The number of Ba'thists who have passed the tests under difficult circumstances has increased. [Words indistinct] It is all the Iraqis who have now passed the tests and who have sincerely and certainly proved to be loyal though their sacrifices by carrying the gun in defense of Iraq and in building Iraq in an exemplary manner.

Before the war we were worrried that those who lead the secret struggle before the revolution might die. We were worried about the future of Iraq and the country's reconstruction. Now elementary students in Iraq are considered an asset for the future as if they had successfully passed the experiment of secret work.

As for the extent to which the war is connected with the appointment of Tariq 'Aziz as foreign minister, I say that the replacement of Sa'dun Hammadi with Tariq 'Aziz was not done out of the desire to search for the better, because Comrade Sa'dun Hammadi was a successful foreign minister. He believed in the revolution and the march. However, he (?fell ill). He has been complaining of insomnia for a year. He has been examined by a number of Iraqi and foreign doctors, and also by American doctors when he visited the United States. They all told him to get another job. Therefore, we had to bring in a new foreign minister. It is only natural to say that, due to the war circumstances, Tariq 'Aziz, who is a competent man, was chosen to head the Foreign Ministry during the war and in peace. Perhaps if Sa'dun's illness had occured in peace time we would have chosen someone else as foreign minister so that Tariq 'Aziz might continue to carry out his large-scale, leading responsibilities, which included supervising foreign policy in one form or another.

[Question] Taking about the war, I would like to know the daily cost of the war to Iraq. I would like to know whether the war has affected the importance of the Islamic religion in this country.

[Answer] Determining the daily cost of the war is impossible. It is complicated and subject to several estimates. The costs of the war may include the electrical power cuts every hour or the reduction in travel of experts abroad in terms of manpower hours, the absence of students from classes, the reduction in the number of teachers during the war. There is also the stoppage of oil flow and the cost of the real war in terms of equipment destroyed and the wornout vehicles. It is complicated and it will take a long time to estimate the cost of the war. In any case, all wars are costly, but when the war is in almost the second half of the 3d year, then we have to imagine that this war is costly.

As for the second half of the question, I say Islamic religious influence has increased in this country but it has decreased in Iran. It will be further reduced in the future. There will be counter-Islamic movements after Khomeyni dies or if he is toppled. This is because the path chosen by Khomeyni is anti-Islamic. Islam was an advanced state during that backward time in human history when it appeared. From the Western viewpoint, you might consider some Islamic applications as backward, whether in the practices of the Arabs or non-Arab Islamic peoples. However, I understand the Islamic religion and the circumstances during which the Islamic mission began on both the Arab and international levels. When the Great Messenger Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon Him, came, the world lived in a state of backwardness without the presence of human relations among peoples of the world. This state was also present among the Arabs. At that stage, the Arab nation was experiencing a renaissance. The Arabs wanted to reject their past existence. We do not need to go into detail, but we can say that Islam came to liberate women who had been oppressed and who had no rights at all. Islam came to lay down human concepts that rejected human haughtiness on the bases of race and color. Slaves and freemen were equal, thus all men became free. Women won their lawful rights. Relations between a woman and her husband were recognized. Both men and women had their names recorded in genealogies. Islam rejected chauvinism among nations. Islam developed humanity from a certain stage to a more advanced stage. This is the same advance made by Christianity when Christ came to earth.

All religions are from God. All religions expressed the progress of humanity from a state to a better one in the intellectual, social, and practical spheres. Islam is, therefore, not the Islam of Khomeyni. We are not ashamed to say that most of those who understand the real meaning of Islam are the Arabs, because the Koran is written in Arabic. I say this because the language is not only a mere way of enunciation but a tool of thought. Therefore, the Islamic religion was revealed in Arabic. God said in the Koran: And We revealed it in Arabic. In another place God says: It is an Arabic rule. This indicates that the Arabs are those who understand the Islamic religion best and those who can express their faith and religious practices.

This has been our state of affairs in Iraq before, during, and after the war. We have not been affected because we knew that the other side has deviated not only in terms of the mandane affairs but also in terms of religion. This practice has become a large-scale program of struggle for the Iranian people who oppose the regime. We believe that Iran after Khomeyni will either witness a counterreligious movement, with atheism and with scientific values as distinct from religion, or restore the balance in the correct religious views of the faith. We hope it will be the second alternative.

[Question] I would like to hear your comments on the statement issued by Libya, Syria, and Iran in Damascus.

[Answer] We have commented on this in an official statement which was made public and published in the papers.

[Question] Nevertheless, Mr President, allow me to ask if the closure of the oil pipeline in Syria and the Libyan arms shipments to Iran affect the course of the war.

[Answer] We know that the Syrian and Libyan regimes did their best to support Iran. They used everything in their possession against us. The decleared Libyan-Syrian stand is only a declaration of a state which has existed since the beginning of the war. We used to tell the world and the Arabs about this. They lied when they said they did not aid Iran. After discovering that their lie was exposed, they announced their stand in a [word indistinct] and collective manner. However, Iraq is steadfast, strong, and mighty with its sons and its ability to defend and protect Iraq. We are sorry the officials in Syria and Libya have stooped to such a mean level, but they will not be able to change the firm fact that Iraq is capable of defending itself before the most diehard and evil forces. Let those small ones be publicly added to the list of others.

[Question] Mr President, you talked about the political and economic results of the war with Iran. Could you give us some figures about the results in the economic field regarding drops in Iraq's hard currency in the domain of oil exportation as well as about the number of the martyrs and POW's and increasing imports from other countries?

[Answer] You are asking about matters which are considered war secrets in most liberal countries. Naturally, I have to tell you that I cannot answer this question. Please excuse me. I do not want to give you an ambiguous answer and beat around the bush as some do.

[Question] Thank you, Mr President, for your frankness. I would like to ask if you expect an end to the war soon.

[Answer] In fact we do not judge matters from conclusions which do not depend on our will alone. The continuation of the war -- as desired by the Iranian rulers -- is an expression of their aggressiveness and eagerness to expand. They are announcing this daily. It is also an expression of the plans drawn up by various international forces, headed by Zionism, in both the occupied territories and the world. Therefore, when the Iranian rulers abandon their expansionist designs, the war will be frozen at a certain point or come to an end. When the war becomes costly for the Iranian rulers in their relationship with their peoples to the extent of threatening to bring about their downfall, it will then be possible to freeze the war at a certain point and take the form of small activities or come to an end. We think that crushing the forthcoming Iranian offensive they are now preparing in the Maysan sector -- where they supported their forces by moving some command headquarters and communication equipment to that sector and by carrying out maneuvers with forces from various parts of Iran -- will have grave consequences in moving the war from one state to another, namely, to a state with which it ends or get frozen and confined to small military activities on the border. We are fully confident that our valiant army will crush this offensive.

[Question] Do you think that there is a military solution to the war?

[Answer] For our part, we have not proposed a military solution to the war, except in the sense of defending Iraq. What we have proposed and are still proposing is understanding on the basis of respecting each other's security, noninterference in internal affairs, and that the war must not result in illegitimate rights for either side. This was our stand and these were the principles we submitted to world public opinion, to the Iranians and Iraqis. We talked about them before the war. We have talked about them since 28 September 1980. We submitted them to the coordinating Bureau meeting of the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers [words indistinct]. As for the Iranians, they are proposing the military solution which calls for changing the ruling regime in Iraq, annexing Iraq to Iran, and then expanding in the Arab Gulf. However, we believe that the solution submitted by the Iranians cannot be achieved, they will fail.

How can we come to an understanding? You will not listen to me. [laughing] I do not like to engage in dialogues with the deaf. We will be engaging in a dialogue between the deaf. I am speaking and you do not understand me. But I depend on the human expressions which I see in your faces and in your eyes. I do not know if this pleases you. For my part, I have no objection.

[Question] Mr President, we are writing a long and comprehensive report on Iraq. We will cover all historical aspects of this country and how it is fighting and defending its borders and so forth. [words indistinct]

[Answer] I have no objection. This is a problem which my colleagues have had with me over the past 14 years. They have tamed me somewhat during the past 2 years. Talking into the microphone is not like talking to people face to face. Therefore, I had to go out and meet the people because I wanted to talk to the people not to the microphone. Things are slightly better now. At any rate, I am ready.

[Question] The question deals with the economic and social situation in this country. How much is allocated in the budget for development and social services?

[Answer] Please, let's not talk about figures. I do not want to talk about figures at present except insofar as the war is concerned. The brain cannot absorb endless figures, names, and cases, although it is said that the human brain can memorize about 65,000 facts. If I do not bother myself with the details regarding certain matters, then this is definitely a failure on my part. But I can give you any figures about the war. I can tell you where each unit, battalion, or brigade is located and also where some of commanders and military hardware are. I can also tell you all about the battles and their details and lessons. But if you ask me about any budget figure, I am lost. But I can produce it for you.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Iraq must build and fight. If it just fights and does not build, this is not right. This is how we view matters. But if you ask me if the war has affected the pace of reconstruction, my answer is yes. The programs which you see being implemented now were essentially drawn up before the war. Despite war costs, Iraq is still a rich country. It is not rich just in terms of its mineral despoists, because these existed before the July 1968 Revolution, but is rich because of its new men who can govern, build, and shoulder their national responsibilities correctly. Therefore, once the war is over, the Iraqis will return to the state of prosperity and to their extraordinary economic capabilities. They will quickly resume their national and pan-Arab duties and role.

[Question] Mr President, could you assess the economic and cultural reflations between Iraq and Spain?

[Answer] As I said, the relationship between Iraq and Spain is a cordial friendship based on old historical heritage. This relationship has been renewed to take a new progressive form since the July 1968 revolution. Our economic relationship has developed in all fields under the economic and technical cooperation agreement signed between Iraq and Spain in 1972. This covered the exchange of commodities and the Spanish companies which are operating in Iraq [words indistinct]. But we must say that we would like to see Spain play a bigger role in development projects in Iraq on the basis of the considerations we referred to earlier. We have noted that Spanish companies have limited experience in foreign projects. This has resulted in their inability to carry out their obligations in a correct manner. This has had a negative effect on their obligations in Iraq. Therefore, we hope that Spanish companies operating in Iraq will be backed by the Spanish Government and that these companies will improve their methods and ideas so as to be competitive with other international companies in Iraq.

[Question] Mr President, we know that political relations between Iraq and Spain are advanced. Yet we find that these political relations have not left their impact on [words indistinct].

[Answer] [Words indistinct]. Both sides have the desire to expand work opportunities for the Spaniards. The political and psychological circumstances are opportune to expand work opportunities for the Spaniards in Iraq.

[Question] Mr President, if possible, would you be willing to meet directly with Khomeyni to put an end to this war?

[Answer] If Khomeyni does not regard such a meeting as sin, we have no objection. [laughter] We have no complexes. We will do anything that serves our people, spares the blood of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, and brings security and stability to the region.

[Question] What chances would the Socialist International have it it were to mediate between Iraq and Iran?

[Answer] This depends on the extent of the Iranian regime's willingness to accept the logic of the age and to abandon the idea of expanding on other people's territory, encroaching on their rights, and interfering in their domestic affairs. We always welcome and encourage international efforts, but these efforts are always blocked in Tehran. However, in our assessment, it is only a question of time and that what is left, in terms of time, is far less than what has lapsed. The Iranian rulers are bound in the end to heed the correct logic and coexist peacefully with Iraq and other neighbors.

[Question] Mr President, in the latest peace mediation with Iran we in Madrid have learned that Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure reached some kind of agreement with some ruling sectors in Iran. Do you believe that Khomeyni is the main stumbling block to peace?

[Answer] Yes, Khomeyni is essentially the one who sparked off the war and imagined and made others in Iran imagine the possibility of achieving territorial gains at Iraq's expense. As a matter of fact, he imagined and made others in Iran imagine that he could set up a vast empire with Tehran as its center and capital and with Imam Khomeyni as its leader. Yes, he is responsible for the war and its continuation and to the nonresponse to peace efforts. In our opinion, were it not for Khomeyni, other influential sides in Iran would have been in a position to make a decision for peace. This is because logic says that all this is in the interest of the Iranian people. He who lives in this age and aspires to progress must support peace, but he who lives far from the framework of development and history with backward mentality ignors the laws of modern age -- the laws which serve mankind in peace, freedom, and progress.

Obviously, Khomeyni is the most backward person in Iran. It is he who often stated over Tehran radio that he wants to set up this empire with a different name and shape. Yesterday I read a speech by Khomeyni, who said that intellectuals are unable to absorb the new life and its (?needs). He then addressed the Consultative Council, saying: You must carefully study the position of the Islamic religion toward communism and socialism and determine the sound position. He himself had not proposed this required position. Also, when we read the words of Khomeyni, we find that he is always inciting problems and knots and never proposes solutions with regard to relations under the current stage, the correct position of the woman from the legal and social point of view, and a sound attitude toward the issues of agriculture and agrarian reform and the application of socialism in the field of internal and foreign trade. Khomeyni (?should not) tell Iranian officials to apply the law in accordance with the Koran and shari'a. Khomeyni is ignorant of religion. Had he been aware of religion, he would have realized why the shari'a is essential.

The Koran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, God bless Him and grant Him salvation, through Gabriel. Had God Almighty seen that everything in life should be written, he would have written the shari'a and would annexed it to the Koran and would have named it differently. [Words indistinct] The value of the shari'a in terms of new, developed, and concrete life. We believe that the shari'a was essential and the first and foremost proof for those who believe in Islam that they should accept sound judgments in life based on the context of the spirit of the Islamic religion and its requirements of continuous development.

Khomeyni incites problems and never proposes solutions to them. Therefore, he knows that he is ignorant in terms of religious affairs and not only of life affairs. He also knows that he is facing incurable problems and that is why he avoids making specific judgments in accordance with his religious vision. He believes that the end of the war would make him face incurable problems and he would be impotent to give radical solutions to the problems of life of the Iranian people.

[Question] What is your opinion of the great support of the masses (?for Khomeyni)?

[Answer] This took place here in Iraq. In 1958 the masses supported 'Abd al-Karim Qasim. They carried his car shoulder high when he drove through Baghdad streets. The masses discovered that he was not what they wanted, that he was only the figurehead of the revolution which overthrew the regime at that time. He was not the alternative to be sought in order to achieve better life. The masses fired at him in the best-known Baghdad street and pounced on him in the 1963 revolution. This also happened to 'Abd as-Salam 'Arif when he presented himself as the figurehead, and not the basis, of the 1963 revolution. As president of the republic, he found wide-scale support from the Iraqis. However, after a period of time when they discovered that he was not what they wanted, they abandoned him.

In Iran we must understand that the regime was oppressive before the revolution of the Iranian masses. Khomeyni came as a figurehead and not as a direct, an effective base for the revolution. He was in Iraq for 14 years and then he went to Paris. The effective leaders were in Iran, and the Iranian people were the real strugglers and revolutionaries. He was a symbol of the revolution in his capacity as the eldest leader of those who worked against the shah. When he emerged from the Air France plane at the airport, he was carried over waves of millions of Iranians until he reached his headquarters. Can he now go out in the streets of Tehran? You know that Khomeyni cannot visit Iranian villages and sleep until morning. He cannot go about in Iranian towns and meet with Iranian people. Does Khomeyni have any support now? The answer is yes. However, Khomeyni has lost the major part of Iranian people's support. He lost the leaders who created the revolution. He lost the strugglers due to his behavior. He has lost life itself because he is far from life. I also say that he lost his religion because he did not understand it and because he deviated from it.

This is the truth. The future of Khomeyni will be based on these facts. Previously, his words were irrevocable orders. Today he makes speeches and reiterates his points several times. This shows that the Iranians are no longer committed to this works as they used to be at the beginning of the Iranian revolution. This is a retreat and not an advance. That is my comment on your question.

[Question] Concerning the war, I would like your evaluation of...[sentence incomplete] Mr President, what have you learned from the war? What are your views about the circumstances of the Iranian Army?

[Answer] We have learned many lessons because the lessons of war are the lessons of life in its most difficult stages. We dealt with the war with a high level of responsibility and tackled the necessary details. [Words indistinct] Any lesson is important, but the importance comes in degrees. We had lessons during the war in terms of our thinking and in practice in both the military and civilian fields, and on the Arab, international, and Iraqi levels. The most important fact is that the Iraqis surprised the world in their steadfastness to defend their country. They even surprised themselves because they also developed during the way from one stage to another until they became a great bastion which cannot be harmed by hostile forces. From the beginning of the war he said that although we defended ourselves and expelled the Iranian Army from our territory and chased it away, we never intended to humilate the Iranian people and army. We respect them and hope that normal relations will be established between Iraq and Iran. Despite all this, I say that whenever the Iranian soldiers were convinced that they were in the right, they fought very well. Whenever they found that they were in the wrong, they fought badly. This is only natural. The Iraqis were fewer in number. Despite the sophisticated arms which were amassed by the shah, the Iraqis were albe to defend their country bravely.

[Question] Mr President, my question deals with Iraq's relations with the United States. Does Iraq's purchase of new U.S. weapons signify the restoration of bilateral relations?

[Answer] In fact there are no U.S. weapons in Iraq. What is reported by the U.S. or Western press is false. On the contrary, the Americans object to the arms deals we conclude with some sides on which they have influence. We have evidence of this. I simply want to point out that a contact was made for certain helicopters for civilian use. They are not essential. We can dispense with them. The contract was an ordinary commerical deal. It was not made through the government but by commercial companies. If this is what is meant by the question, I say that these helicopters are not weapons.

At present diplomatic relations are severed. We talked about this subject with a U.S. congressman and our talk was published and translated. You can read it if you wish. But I say that Iraq has no complexes and is not weak. Therefore, if Iraq believes that the establishment of diplomatic relations with any side is essential and serves national and pan-Arab issues, or at last is in harmony with them, it will the establish such relations.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct].

[Answer] Yes, it happened with some NATO states.

[Question] Mr President, what is the meaning of [words indistinct]? The other part of my question deals with your recent visit to Saudi Arabia and if this conflict with [words indistinct].

[Answer] You know that Iraq's friendly relationship with the USSR is an old one and developed into a level of stability and joint and firm understanding after the July 1968 revolution. It was based on a long-term strategic viewpoint of the national interests of both Iraq and the Arab nation due to the Soviet position on Arab issues. The USSR has been our basic source of weapons since the July 1968 revolution. Therefore, it is natural, within the framework of the friendly relations which developed into the signing of a joint friendship agreement, that the USSR continues its commitment to supply Iraq with weapons. It would be unnatural for the USSR to relinquish its commitment to supply Iraq with weapons. Confidence among states require states to abide by the course they adopt and the commitments they have to carry out.

You ask if our visit to Saudi Arabia conflicts with the development of Iraq's relations with the USSR or our desire to develop our relations with the USSR and vice versa. The answer is no. The Saudis are Arabs. We do not view our relations with the Arabs in light of the nature of their system. We assume that the Arabs have several regimes, including royal, republican, [word indistinct], socialist, and nonsocialist. Some of them have good relations with the USSR or the United States or with both sides and vice versa.

We base our stand toward any Arab on the basis of his attitude toward the issues submitted in accordance with his ability to endure. In any case, any evaluation we make of any Arab must not [words indistinct] between us and him in deepening joint concepts and finding alternatives to the stands which make us closer to one another in the service of our Arab issues. This is our trend which was formulated in 1973 and which we are still following in our Arab relations.

[Question] Mr President, what did the failure to hold the nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad mean to you personally and to the Iraqi people?

[Answer] Of course, we would have liked it to be held in Baghdad under more opportune circumstances which would have enabled the Iraqis to play an effective role in the summit and afforded the conferees proper Iraqi hospitality. However, we and others did not think the circumstances were suitable for the convocation of the conference. We considered it an ordinary matter to hold the conference outside Baghdad. We did not want to be morally burdened with the decision of some friends to come to Baghdad despite the war circumstances in Baghdad.

At the same time, we do not want any suspect and evil side to exploit [word indistinct] the Nonaligned Movement and the unity of this movement. Hence we decided to convey our opinion to the nonaligned states. This emanated from our nonaligned position.

[Question] [Words indistinct] About the Palestine question. Would you kindly explain Iraq's position on the Palestine question?

[Answer] The position we adopted at the Fes sumit is that we would not oppose any effort which the Palestinians consider essential for the Palestine question on the level of political activities and political projects, even if we have a different view on any of these projects or activities. This is our position. It will continue like this as long as the representatives of the Palestinians are capable of expressing what they believe is correct for their own free choice.

As for relations between the Jordanians and Palestinians, we support the development of the relationship between the Jordanians and the Palestinians into any constitutional and practical form which they consider suitable.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] [Passage indistinct] When you meet with Khamene'i, tell him that we do not understand why you insist on continuing the war, that is, if he makes the decision. I doubt very much that he can make the decision toward both the peace and war. He is certainly the president from the constitutional and practical point of view, but he is unable to express his opinion as should be the case under all circumstances, including the issues of peace and war between Iraq and Iran.

[Question] Mr President, my question concerns Iraq's relations with Egypt. What is the possibility of Egypt's return to the Arab League and how true are the reports that Egypt is ready to dispatch four divisions to Iraq?

[Answer] Regardless of the new reports you hear that Egyptian divisions will be sent to Iraq, it is clear that it is the Iraqi Army and some Arab volunteers who are doing the fighting. Some Arab states announced symbolic aid to consolidate pan-Arab relations. The Egyptians fighting alongside other Arabs are volunteers. I believe that President Husni Mubarak's policy does not object to Egyptians volunteering to fight alongside Iraqis, although this was not announced by the Egyptians. At any rate, there is no Egyptian army in Iraq.

Nevertheless, our opinion is that Egypt must not remain out side the Arab League. Egypt and the Arabs must work in accordance with their pan-Arab responsibility based on serving the interests of the nation, not on other whims or outside influences. They should come out with the correct bases and course which would enable Egypt to return to the nation and to be part of it through the Arab League. The established historical fact says that Egypt is part of the Arab nation historically.

As for the part of your question on when will Egypt return to the Arab League and what our position is toward this, we must say that there is a problem. Egypt has diplomatic relations with Israel, although Israeli aggression against the Arab nation continues. Some Arabs states are also still in a state of war with Israel. The Arab nation also severed diplomatic relations with foreign states because they established diplomatic relations with Israel. What will the position of the nation be when the biggest Arab state, which has diplomatic relations with Israel, is a member of the Arab League and enjoys normal relations with the Arab states? There will be a contradiction between this and the Arabs' attitude toward foreign states that do not have relations with Israel.

Let us take Spain, for example. Spain will tell the Arabs that as long as you consider Egypt's position toward Israel as normal, why do not you consider Spain's establishing diplomatic relations with Israel normal. Some Arabs might say: Why do you prevent us from establishing diplomatic relations with Israel at a time when you accept Egypt's diplomatic relations with Israel? These are facts and these are problems. Therefore, non-Egyptian Arabs, including Iraq, and the Egyptians should think with a pan-Arab responsibility in giving the correct answer to these problems and their solutions -- a responsible and fraternal solution -- so that Egypt can become part of the Arab League and so that we will achieve strength for the Arab position, not to upset the balance of the political and principled Arab stand. Iraq, on its part, and since the death of As-Sadat and after Iraq became convinced that Husni Mubarak is not As-Sadat, believes the Arabs must hold fraternal consultations with Husni Mubarak in a way that would make him and the Arabs stronger, would not place him and the Arabs in critical position, and would constitute a factor of power for all the Arabs.

We always think of this subject; however, not only we in Iraq, but Egypt must think in detailed form more than the other Arabs should. Egypt must not embarrass the Arabs. At the same time, the Arabs must not embarrass Egypt. These are my remarks to your question. I [word indistinct] that Egypt will become an effective and leading member in the Arab arena. This is what we wish for Egypt and what we expect from it. Wishing you good luck, please convey our greetings to the Spanish and Portuguese peoples coupled with our regards to the officials and parties in the two countries. I wish you continued success.

COMMUNIQUES ISSUED ON OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAN

Communique No 979

JN281716 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Communique No 979 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious armed forces continued their daring valiant operations in the operational sectors against the aggressor enemy forces. The results for last night and today were as follows:

1. A force of our forward units carried out a raid against a group of enemy personnel in the area opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing five and wounding others.

2. Our valiant air force eagles today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan sector and military targets in the Ash-Shib region in the southern operational sector, scoring accurate and effective hits and inflicting grave losses on the enemy's materiel and troop concentrations. All of our fighter planes, praise God, returned safely to base.

3. One of our forward units, using various types of arms, attacked an enemy patrol which attempted to approach our forward units in the area east of Basra, killing three and forcing the rest to flee. Four enemy positions were also destroyed in the same sector.

4. Four were killed in the central operational sector.

5. The Khomeynite clique today shelled Mandali, damaging civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 January 1983

Communique No 980

JN291720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Communique No 980 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 29 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassinate. In defense of Iraq's honor and sovereignty and the Arab nation's might, the glorious Iraqi forces are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the arrogant Khomeynite clique. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. At 1209 today in a dogfight between our bold fighter planes and the collapsing enemy aircraft, one enemy fighter plane was shot down in the Khowr-e Musa area north of the Arab Gulf. It was seen falling ablaze into the waters of the Arab Gulf.

Since this morning our capable air force has been carrying out daring raids against enemy units and troop concentrations in areas opposite our forward positions in the Maysan sector and against enemy concentrations deep inside Iran in the southern sector of the battlefield. Our valiant pilots scored direct and very effective hits against the Enemy targets and inflicted large losses on the enemy armor, vehicles, and troop concentrations. Tongues of fire and columns of smoke were seen rising from the hit and destroyed targets. All our fighter planes returned safely to base, thanks be to God.

2. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and personnel movements opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing six and destroying three personnel positions, killing the occupants.

3. One of our forward units sighted and pounded a number of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four and wounding others. An infantry position was destroyed in the same sector.

4. One hardware stockpile was destroyed east of Basra.

5. The vile enemy today shelled Mandali and its outskirts with artillery, damaging civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 January 1983

Communique No 981

JN301710 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Communique No 981 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 30 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces continued their successful operations against the racist Khomeynite enemy forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our able aircraft today continued their daring and intensive strikes against enemy positions and troops concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units in the Maysan operational sector as well as against enemy military targets in the southern operational sector, scoring direct and painful hits. All of our aircraft returned safely to base.

2. One was killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One armored personnel carrier was destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. One vehicle and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

5. The spiteful Iranian regime today shelled Mandali, damaging civilian installations in the town.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 January 1983

INTERIOR MINISTER IN AUSTRIA, MEETS KREISKY

For reportage on Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud's arrival in Vienna and subsequent meetings with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and other Austrian officials, see the Austria section of the 27 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

KHALDAH TALKS OPEN; NEW TEAM MEMBERS ADDED

NC311023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0938 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Lebanese Ministry of Information from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah in Arabic, English, and French -- processed from Arabic]

[Text] This is the delegation of the Ministry of Information, speaking to you from Khaldah. The general session of the 11th round of talks began at 1030. Local and foreign television and news reporters entered the negotiations hall to take photographs. The heads of the delegations refused to answer newsmen's questions on the agenda and the atmosphere prevailing in the hall.

At the beginning of the session, head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks Dr Fattal delivered a lengthy speech which was considered to be an answer to Israeli Defense Minister Sharon's recent statement. Dr Fattal emphasized that the United States is considered as a full partner to the negotiations. The delegation of the Ministry of Information has learned from the negotiators circles that today's discussions dealt with the work of the subcommittees in Netanya tomorrow and that discussion on the withdrawals is being temporarily suspended until Ambassador Philip Habib's return to the area later this week, as certain informed U.S. sources said. These circles added that the talks are making progress but slowly and without stumbling. The discussions may deal with the future of Lebanese-Israeli relations after the issue of normalization of relations has been cancelled once and for all.

His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and the negotiating team yesterday reviewed the stages that the negotiations have reached and Al-Jumayyil gave the necessary instructions and directives. Official Lebanese sources affirmed that the Lebanese stand is firm in the negotiations and that it constitutes the limit beyond which Lebanon cannot go. In this respect, an official said that the Lebanese Government's position on the withdrawals is clear -- it rejects any withdrawal that is not in accordance with an overall plan and time-table for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

A new member, Joseph Nasr, has been added to the Lebanese delegation. He is an expert on economic affairs. Another new member has been added to the Israeli delegation, Yosi 'Amihud, who has been entrusted with the task of giving the official information to newsmen and to read final statements. This post was previously held by Aviv Pazner.

Subcommittees Meet

NC311050 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1037 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Ministry of Information in Khaldah in Arabic, English, and French -- processed from English]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The press attache for the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud Sayigh, came before the press to announce that following a meeting between the heads of the three delegations, the subcommittees are now, or started now, their meeting.

We will be with you whenever anything comes up. So now the subcommittees are meeting.

SYRIANS REPORTEDLY INSTALL SAM LAUNCHERS

NC300721 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Reports from northern Lebanon indicate that the Syrian forces have intensified their presence and increased their alert in the Al-Kurah and Bsharri areas. The number of Syrian roadblocks between Amyun, in Al-Kurah, and 'Abdun, in the Bsharri district, has risen from 7 to 14. The Syrian forces have also tightened their inspection of cars and shops.

Reports say that the Syrians have moved SAM launchers, field rocket launchers, and other weapons to the hills of the area. These Syrian activities have caused a wave of resentment among the citizens in the Al-Kurah and Bsharri districts.

SITUATION IN MOUNTAIN DETERIORATES 30 JANUARY

NC300607 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The security situation has deteriorated seriously in the mountain area. After midnight last night, an exchange of artillery fire broke out, which was still continuing up to this morning. Shells fell in some quarters of Beirut's southeastern suburbs and the northern suburb as well as in Al-Ashrafiyah.

This deterioration in the security situation comes at a time when positive contacts have been continuing to revive the greater Beirut plan, to deploy the army from 'Alayh and Ash-Shuwayfat up to Nahr Al-Kalb, to remove the armed manifestations and collect the weapons to check the deteriorating situation in the mountain and for the legal authority to regain its supervision and control of all the public utilities in the capital, foremost of which is the Beirut port and the rest of the official institutions.

SOCIALISTS SHELL EAST BEIRUT, AL-MATN MOUNTAIN

NC300609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] At about 0300 today, armed leftist Socialists shelled Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-'Adliyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Badaru [in Beirut], the northern Al-Matn coast, Brummana, Bayt Miri, Kafr Shima, Al-Hadath, and Al-Fayyadiyah. The reasons behind the attempts to explode the situation and expand the areas of the attacks on the roads and on the houses are not known.

Initial reports indicate that the indiscriminate Socialist shelling overnight caused a fire in a building in Ad-Dawrah [a suburb of Beirut] and the burning of six cars in the same place. Meanwhile, clashes are continuing on the axes of Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat.

The Lebanese Forces returned the fire, shelling Socialist positions in 'Alayh, Btatir, [placename indistinct], Dayr Qubil, Al-Ghabun, and Baysur, as well as artillery emplacements in 'Ayn as-Sihhah, Falughah, Ash-Shabaniyah, [placename indistinct] and Dahr al-Baydar. The shelling stopped about 0500.

Syria Accused of Shellings

NC300816 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Statement issued by 'Fifth Branch' of Lebanese Forces on 30 January]

[Text] At 0215 today, the peaceful areas of Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Furn Ash-Shubbak, Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, Al-Fayyadiyah, the northern Al-Matn coast, Bayt Miri and Brummana came under artillery and rocket bombardment from the Syrian forces stationed in upper Al-Matn and the Socialist positions in Alayh. This compelled the Lebanese Forces to violently shell the sources of fire and to silence them. The bombardment, which stopped at 0500, caused only material damage in the liberated areas. No casualties have been reported.

CALM IN MOUNTAIN, TRIPOLI; IDF PATROL BEIRUT

NC310829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Text] According to the latest securty reports, the situation in 'Alayh is cautiously calm. The international highway is passable with caution. The Kafr Shima-Ash-Shuwayfat road is risky.

The reports said that at 0800 today four Israeli tracked vehicles arrived at the Galerie Sim'an crossroads and that Israeli troops then went on a foot patrol from the Galerie Sim'an junction up to the Saint Therese junction. No other information is available.

In Tripoli, the situation is quiet, and work is going on normally in all institutions and banks. Internal Security Froces patrols are continuing their work to deal with any offense that undermines stability.

An isolated shooting incident took place on Al-Arz street in Al-Qubbah quarter of Tripoli last night. A corporal in the Internal Security Forces, George al-Halabi, was killed while present by chance in the area.

VOL REPORTS EXPLOSION OUTSIDE LIBYAN EMBASSY

NC291047 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Reports from Ba'labakk say that a bomb exploded at around midnight last night outside Fu'ad Qara'h's sandwich and liquor shop, causing only material damage. Furthermore, also around midnight, a stick of dynamite exploded outside the Libyan Embassy in Beirut, but without causing any damage worth mentioning.

'Black Brigades' Claim Responsibility

NC291818 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] A person contacted the Voice of Lebanon this afternoon and claimed to be a member of the Black Brigades [Al-Alwiyah as-Sud] who planted a bomb last night near the Libyan Embassy as a warning to Al-Qadhdhafi's regime that the said brigades will not remain silent to Al-Qadhdhafi's persistent stand regarding the disappearance of Imam as-Sadr and his companions Shaykh Muhammad Ya'qub and journalist 'Abbas Badr ad-Din.

WALID JUNBLATT 'READY TO REACH AGREEMENT'

NC301412 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 30 (AFP) -- The leader of the Druze Moslem's chief political formation, Walid Junblatt, says he is ready to "reach an agreement" with the Christian Lebanese Forces -- if Lebanon's Christian president, Amin al-Jumayyil, sponsors such an accord.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine "MONDAY MORNING," which is to appear tomorrow, Mr. Junblatt also accused Israel of arming the Lebanese Forces in their battles against the Druze in mountains east of Beirut.

Mr. Junblatt's statements were reported only hours after the Lebanese Forces accused his Progressive Socialist Party of shelling Christian neighborhoods in and around Beirut.

He tempered his offer to enter into talks with the Lebanese Forces by refusing to meet their leader, Fadi Afram. He also accused the group of an attempt on his life last December, in which he was slightly injured by a car bomb. "I am accusing the Lebanese Forces or whoever is backing them," he said.

He added that the Druze will not disarm until they receive "firm guarantees" on their status in the mountains. He did not elaborate.

The Druze and the Lebanese Forces have been engaged since October in a battle in the Ash-Shuf mountains and in the 'Alayh region east of Beirut. The fighting, which has left 200 people dead, spread early today to Beirut, with each side accusing the other of responsibility for new shelling.

Concerning the talks with Israel, Mr. Junblatt said the government had abandoned "basic positions of principle," and hinted that the agenda agreed upon earlier this month was the result of a "secret agreement" that compromised Lebanese interests.

"Nobody in the Arab world is pleased" about the way the talks are going, Mr. Junblatt said, "nobody."

SOVIET OFFICIAL REJECTS ISRAELI DIALOGUE

LD310038 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, 30 Jan (SPA) -- The Soviet Union has rejected a proposal put forward by the Israelis for opening a dialogue between the two sides in order to end the frozen relations between them before the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories.

Deputy Chairman of the CPSU Central Committee International Department Brutents said that the Zionist enemy must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories in order to talk about an Israeli-Soviet dialogue.

In a statement on arrival in Beirut this evening the Soviet official added that his country's stand regarding the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel is based on the fact that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon until Israeli conditions that harm Lebanese sovereignty are achieved. He stressed that these conditions will lead to the Zionist enemy's domination over Lebanon for a long period of time.

Concerning his visit to Lebanon, the Soviet official said that during the visit he aims to get acquainted with the conditions under which the Lebanese people have been living since the Israeli invasion.

He expressed his country's solidarity with the Lebanese people, the revalence of their legitimacy over all Lebanese territories, and the evacuation of the invading Zionist forces.

This visit is being made by Brutents at the head of a delegation from his country in response to an invitation from the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and the Communist Party.

AL-WAZZAN SAYS SYRIA, PLO PROMISE TO PULL OUT

NC300739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has stated in Zurich that the Israeli occupation of a part of the Lebanese territory should not be compared to the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan, who is taking part in the European Forum for Management, was asked about the future of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. He affirmed that any formula that does not take into consideration the UN resolutions which call for a total Israeli withdrawal would be totally unacceptable.

Al-Wazzan expressed the view that the Syrian presence in Lebanon came in the wake of an agreement with the Lebanese Government and in implementation of an Arab resolution. He disclosed in this regard that Lebanon has, in fact, asked for the termination of the Syrian presence. With regard to the PLO, Al-Wazzan said that the organization, which pulled out of Beirut, has promised to evacuate other parts of Lebanon where it is still present.

Al-Wazzan attributed the incidents in Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh to maneuvers planned from outside.

The Prime Minister called on Western governments to guarantee investments by Western industrialists in Lebanon against war and political risks to contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan informed the European Forum, which is being attended by 500 directors of companies and 50 personalities in Davos, Switzerland, that an agreement to this effect has been concluded between Lebanon and the United States. He said that Lebanon's reconstruction program now totals $14 billion.

AL-JUMAYYIL MEETS WITH FORMER PREMIER AS-SULH

NC281929 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] President al-Jumayyil met today with former Prime Minister Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, who indicated that the meeting concentrated on the current negotiations. As-Sulh added: You know that these negotiations are being carried out in phases. Today we are in a stage where we should wait, as I believe, for the return of the U.S. envoy, following the progress achieved abroad. As for the Lebanese stance, I believe that our issue with Israel is that of the struggle between right and force, right will finally be victorious as long as it is backed by a steadfast people and government and as long as they pursue the achievement of right.

BEGIN INVITES HUSAYN, PALESTINIANS TO JOIN TALKS

Addresses Bonds Group 29 Jan

TA292052 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 29 Jan (ITIM) -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin has again called on King Husayn to join the autonomy talks according to the Camp David agreements and without preconditions. Mr Begin was speaking to a conference of Israel bonds organization leaders from the United States and Canada who met this evening in the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel at the end of a tour of the country. In his invitation to the Jordanian king to join the talks, Mr Begin stressed the sacredness of the principle of implementing all the clauses of the international agreements, and that Israel was faithful to this principle. He pointed out that, in accordance with this, King Husayn would be accepted in the talks together with Palestinians "who do not take orders from the PLO." The prime minister confirmed that "just as we scrupuously observe the implementation of all clauses of the agreements we have signed, so we have the full moral right to demand this from others, too."

Mr Begin again explained that the Camp David Agreements did not guarantee the establishment of a Palestinian state, the very fact of whose existence would be a mortal danger for the state of Israel. At the same time, the prime minister said that the right of all nations to self-determination was to be honored, also including that of the Jewish people. As for the Palestinians, he said that their self-determination would be recognized within the framework of the autonomy proposed to them, "which is the greatest and broadest ever offerred to any national camp whatsoever at any time."

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, the prime minister explained to the bonds organization leaders that Israel regarded itself as having the duty to guarantee peace and security between it and Lebanon, with the firm decision that the situation prevailing on the northern border during the previous few years, in which murderous attacks were carried out against Israel's settlements from Lebanese soil, would never recur. Mr Begin also devoted some remarks to Jews' right to settle throughout Eretz Yisra'el, emphasizing that this right was not only a historical one, but also a duty for the fortification of Israel's security.

Rejects Camp David Changes

TA292205 Jersualem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2155 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Speech by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to Israeli bonds representatives from the United States and Canada in the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel on 29 January -- in English, videotaped]

[Text] We repeat our invitation to King Husayn to join the negotiations on the basis of Camp David agreements. There shouldn't be any preconditions in any sphere, just let him join, and as it is written in the Camp David agreement, by general agreement, either in the Egyptian or in the Jordanian delegation, Palestinian Arabs can participate; in other words, not members or people carrying out orders of the so-called PLO. But they can come, all of them, and negotiate with us in goodwill and try to reach an agreement. We try it. We should renew the negotiations and here is publicly, for the whole world, such an invitation which I addressed from the rostrum of our Knesset several times, which is written in the Camp David agreement; but remember: No deviations from the Camp David agreements. No contradictions to it. No detractions and no additions, which may completely distort its contents and its intent. Faithful to the agreement, we stand by its faithfulness and we have, therefore, the moral right to ask others to do so.

Schiffer Analyzes Call to Husayn

TA300719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Live report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] It is no coincidence that the prime minister last night decided to make a public call on Husayn to join the negotiating table. For some time now there have been consultations in the prime minister's office on how to react to the Jordanian king's moves. U.S. figures who met Menahem Begin prodded and pleaded with him to do something that would help to explain Israel's positions, so that Israel should not be blamed for the freeze in the political process. The prime minister used to reply that he had invited Husayn several times in the past, and last night he made the invitation in public. He sent another hint to U.S. Administration leaders about the sanctity of fulfilling clauses in international agreements. This came against the background of reports that the U.S. President had allegedly promised Husayn to cut the autonomy period from 5 years, as stipulated in the Camp David accords, to 1 year if and when he joined the negotiations.

In its session this morning, the Cabinet is also scheduled to hear a report about the negotiations with Lebanon. At the end of the week reports reached Jerusalem that the U.S. Administration decided not to exacerbate the confrontation with Israel regarding the arrangement in Lebanon. In contacts Professor Arens held with the White House and the U.S. State Department, it was made plain that Philip Habib had been issued instructions to go on looking for solutions that would satisfy Israel. In conclusion, everybody is busy explaining and cooling things down. Ari'el Sharon's remarks at the end of the week calling on the Soviet Union to converse with Israel have aroused great commotion. Ministers want to know whether the defense minister's remarks had been coordinated and agreed upon with the prime minister. U.S. sources in Israel exerted considerable efforts to find out the meaning of the defense minister's open statements. All these topics may be discussed this morning, at the Cabinet's weekly session.

Telegram on Husayn Intentions

TA290927 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Washington correspondent Wolf Blitzer]

[Text] Washington -- The U.S. ambassador in Amman, Richard Viets, has informed the State Department that King Husayn will announce his readiness to join the U.S. sponsored peace process by March 1, it has been learned. Viets, in a secret cable sent earlier this month, said the king had personally informed him of Jordan's willingness to enter the peace negotiations. Husayn, Viets said, had received solid assurances from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that enough members of the PLO's Executive Committee had already accepted the concept of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the negotiations.

Husayn's announcement, the sources here said, was not linked directly to an Israeli promise to freeze settlement construction on the West Bank. "There will be no public conditions attached," THE JERUSALEM POST was told. But the clear "understanding" between Washington and Amman, the sources said, was that the U.S. subsequently would lean hard on Israel to stop settlement activity.

According to reliable sources here in Washington, the Viets committee has remained in Amman to negotiate the exact terms of Husayn's authority in any future talks with Israel. Any Palestinians participating in the Jordanian delegation, the sources said, would not be prominent or official members of the PLO. Instead, they would come from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and elsewhere. The expelled mayor of Halhul, Muhammad Milhim, is widely seen by both the Jordanians and the PLO as an acceptable representative.

Husayn was said to have asked Viets for a "cooling off" period in the coming weeks in advance of the official Husayn announcement. During this period, sources here said, 'Arafat would take concrete steps to strengthen his own standing in the PLO.

A positive Husayn announcement is seen by the Americans as the essential ingredient to splitting the Israeli public, the U.S. Jewish community and other pro-Israel supporters here. While the Viets cable has encouraged Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other senior administration officials that the President's Middle East peace initiative may still get off the ground, other U.S. officials remain sceptical that the Jordanian monarch will actually make the long-awaited and dramatic announcement. For one thing, they said, 'Arafat may yet back out of the reported deal.

CABINET CONSIDERS LEBANON, SHARON'S USSR REMARKS

Schiffer Reports Deliberations

TA301534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- live]

[Text] Although I did not personally participate in the Cabinet session, here is my report: At the close of the Cabinet session, it transpired that the prime minister had not changed his opinion on the need to have early warning stations in southern Lebanon. I heard this an hour ago from a source in the prime minister's office, but it should be emphasized that some ministers who attended the session and took part in the discussion over the subject of security arrangements and the intention to establish early warning stations in Lebanon got a different impression, and formed the opinion that the prime minister is not insisting on setting up between three and five early warning stations in southern Lebanon.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon made it clear at the session today that these stations will not provide Israel with information on what happens in Syria, but will give them prior notice on the resumption of terrorist activity. In addition to this, Ari'el Sharon emphasized, these early warning stations would be important to help Sa'd Haddad's force.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi remarked that if Israel insists on setting up the early warning stations, then the danger exists that the Syrian presence in Lebanon would also continue, and one must consider what is more important to Israel; to which the defense minister answered that if the Syrians remove their forces from Lebanon and only leave a few hundred soldiers there, he would see no disaster in it.

The defense minister also reviewed his visit to Lebanon at today's session. He told the ministers that he conferred with the leaders of the Christian community there, and among them met with the president's father, Pierre al-Jumayyil. He described that meeting as most difficult. In that meeting Ari'el Sharon made it unambiguously clear to Pierre al-Jumayyil that a president who is afraid of maintaining contacts with Israel -- referring to his son, Amin al-Jumayyil -- cannot be president. Lebanon's fate, Sharon said, cannot be determined either in Amman or in Riyadh, not in Damascus and not in the terrorists' command in Tunisia. It could only be determined in Beirut. The defense minister also warned the Christian figures that unless progress is made in negotiations on an arrangement with them, Israel might well withdraw to the 45-km line, leaving the Christians to mind their own fate, because they are the only ones responsible for there being absolutely no progress in the negotiations on the final arrangements.

At the cabinet session, Minister Yosef Burg asked about the meaning of the defense minister's declarations calling on the Soviet Union to come and talk to Israel. Minister Sharon answered that he was talking within customary, acceptable government expressions, as well as those made by the prime minister, stating that Israel wishes to make contact with every country including the Soviet Union. This, he said, harbors no damage to the friendship with the United States.

As for the last subject that was broached today at the cabinet session: Minister Sharon told the ministers about the talks held at the end of last week between the commander of the Northern Command and the U.S. Marines' commanders on the dividing lines between the IDF and the Marine force in Beirut. Incidentally, it was discovered then that the U.S. force was not prepared to be incorporated in the business of pursuing terrorists. The Marines' commanders argued that they are a peace force, not a force that was there to search for terrorists.

Begin on IDF in Lebanon

TA301742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Excerpt] The future of the early warning stations in Lebanon, the unborn child that is so controversial and so heavily disputed between the negotiating parties, was the subject for discussion at the weekly Cabinet session today. In principle, the prime minister continues to adhere the belief that some hundreds of soldiers should remain in southern Lebanon for a limited, agreed-upon time, until the Lebanese security forces organize to maintain the area and prevent the penetration of hostile elements with the aim of attacking Israeli targets. At the session, Menahem Begin expressed opposition to the term suggested by the defense minister: Not early warning stations, which imply permanency, because we do not want to stay in Lebanon permanently; nor do we want even 1 inch of its territory, the prime minister said. Rather, he suggested a different term. Another comment the prime minister made was: It will not be the IDF that will determine where its soldiers will remain. [as heard] Mr Begin summed up that the specifics of the security arrangements would be discussed by the ministers. Some ministers said after the meeting that they regarded this statement as a victory for their positions.

IDF Radio Reports Session

TA301606 Tel Aviv IDF radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel -- live]

[Excerpts] At the focus of today's Cabinet session were Lebanese matters: the direct negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona, the disputed security arrangements, and following this dispute, our relations with the United States. When Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon finished his report, he demanded continuing the negotiations and insisting on our positions, first and foremost the demand for early warning stations manned by Israeli soldiers. A few ministers asked to express their reactions. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i claimed that the most important thing we must strive toward is the evacuation of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Following the demand for this evacuation, our next demand is for early warning stations. However, if we cannot attain them, we should act in southern Lebanon through friendly Lebanese forces, like the Phalangists and Major Haddad's forces.

Moda'i predicted that if we remain in Lebanon until the summer, a burst of terrorism against our forces will occur, as well as increasing friction among the Lebanese factions. Therefore, he said, it is preferable that the Lebanese control Lebanon together with a foreign Western force, American or perhaps even French. One of the ministers who had levelled criticism last week told us after the session that he had become convinced of the need for the early-warning stations as they had been presented by Sharon.

Following the session, a Cabinet source said that now we must discuss security agreements with the Americans in general, and not focus the talks on the early-warning and control stations as a point of dispute between us and the United States. After the political discussion the prime minister stated, as some ministers had requested, that the details of the security arrangement would be discussed and ratified by the Cabinet.

The prime minister's call yesterday evening on King Husayn to join negotiations was mentioned at the cabinet session. The ministers wanted to congratulate the prime ministe for making this call, and one of the ministers proposed drafting an Israeli plan for autonomy in Judaea and Samaria based on the Camp David accords and constituting a reaction to the plan named after President Reagan.

EGYPTIAN CONSUL PAYS SUDDEN VISIT IN TABAH

TA301247 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jan 83 p 3

[Report by Betzal'el Rubin]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, who left Elat for Cairo over 2 weeks ago suddenly returned to Tabah last week and met with Egyptian officers. The Egyptian consul stayed in Elat only a few hours and then returned to Cairo without even visiting the Egyptian Consulate in Elat.

Hasan 'Isa did not cross the Israeli barrier at the border terminal in Tabah but he exchanged a few words with the Israeli guards near the Egyptian fence. The contents of his talk with the Egyptian officers in Tabah are not known but his lightning visit of the site without visiting the consultate in Elat has left Israeli elements in the border terminal wondering.

IDF PATROL AMBUSHED IN BEIRUT, 4 CASUALTIES

Eytan: Terrorists From W. Beirut

TA301457 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan believes that the terrorist squad that attacked an IDF patrol this morning came from West Beirut in a civilian car. The terrorists were wearing civilian clothes. Speaking to our military correspondent Hayim Ravya, the chief of staff pointed out that the terrorists crossed the line that marks the limits of the multinational force in Beirut's control, but he noted that this line is not continuous. It has already been reported that four IDF soldiers were wounded in the terrorist attack.

U.S. Lines Crossed

TA301825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Israeli officials today said there was a lesson to be learned from the latest terrorist attack. According to the officials, the terrorists had crossed through American lines, carried out the attack, and then retreated back again into West Beirut.

Reporter David Essing adds that when Israel had earlier asked the American forces to stop the attacks, the reply was: We are a peace force, and it's not our job to fight the PLO. The officials then concluded: How can anyone take seriously proposals to station a multinational force or UNIFIL in south Lebanon to keep the terrorist out?

IDF Soldier Killed

TA301708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] An IDF soldier, Private David Barda, of Qiryat Yam, was killed in an ambush this morning when two RPG's were fired at an IDF patrol at the southeastern outskirts of Beirut, south of Galerie Sim'an. Three soldiers were wounded. Our correspondent reports that David Barda had requested to go on the first patrol this morning so that he could manage to attend his grandfather's funeral. When his father learned that his son David had been killed, he had a heart attack and was hosptialized.

Lebanese Group Claims Responsibility

TA301813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] A group calling itself the Lebanese Front for National Resistance claims that its men were the ones who attacked IDF soldiers in Beirut. An announcement to this effect reached the Beirut AL-LIWA' newspaper editorial desk.

IDF, U.S. MARINES REPRESENTATIVES MEET 30 JAN

TA301518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Representatives of the IDF and the U.S. Marines met today for a working meeting to implement the decisions decided by the commander of the northern command, the Marine commander and envoy Draper. Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that ways to maintain communications between the IDF units and the marines were concluded, and a telephone line will be installed. Also, a radio-telephone communications line will also operate between the forces.

SHAMIR WILLING TO DISCUSS WARNING POST PROPOSALS

TA281124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has indicated that Israel would not reject alternative proposals to its proposal to establish warning stations in Lebanon. He said that Israel had submitted its proposal, and that until today had received no alternative proposals. When such a proposal is made we will discuss it according to Israel's defense needs, Shamir said in an interview granted to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Shamir also expressed confidence that Israel and the United States would reach agreement on arrangements in Lebanon and rejected statements that the United States is trying to steal from Israel the fruits of its victory in Lebanon.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH LEBANON

TA281108 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Jan 83 pp 22, 26

[Interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dov Goldstein -- date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Mr Defense Minister, about a month ago you granted me an interview filled with tidings about a breakthrough on an agreement with Lebanon. You reported this to the Cabinet minister and to Ambassador Philip Habib that same week and you even showed them the agreed-upon document with Lebanon. What happened? Why is the current gap between Israel and Lebanon so wide?

Answer: The agreement I informed the Cabinet and Philip Habib of was a working paper. Look here, this is the working paper. That is also its name: Working paper. It is built on the plan for security arrangements and normalization that the Israeli Cabinet adopted on 10 October 1982 and which was simultaneously presented on 12 October to Secretary of State Shultz in Washington and to President al-Jumayyil in Beirut. The plan included all the security arrangements that Israel saw then and sees now as necessary for its security and...

Question: I beg your pardon, did it also include the Israeli early warning stations on Lebanese territory?

Answer: Yes indeed. Everything was specified: the terms for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, a general security arrangement applicable to all of Lebanon, banning terrorist forces or any other Arab forces -- with the exception of the Lebanese Army -- or any military forces from countries that do not have relations with Israel from the entire Lebanese territory. It also included all the security arrangements in the security zone, in a 45-kms strip. Incidentally, I am surprised anew each time that commentators do not understand that this distance should be measured from Israel's northernmost point, namely Metulla.

In the specific arrangements for Israel's security the plan also included the Israeli early warning stations. We also regarded the normalization as a vital component, and not for economic reasons. Israel's economy is more acutely threatened by the Lebanese activity than the Lebanese economy is endangered by Israeli businessmen. Lebanese businessmen are simply faster....

The plan was presented and welcomed. Although there were reservations about certain items, the plan was acceptable in principle to both Mr Shultz and President al-Jumayyil. Therefore, it was possible to attain the agreed-upon working paper with the Lebanese authorities on 14 December 1982. The debates were lengthy and difficult.

Now you are asking what has happened to this agreed-upon paper. What has changed? Has anything changed? Are the terms now different? No, nothing has changed. Even today the Cabinet's decision must and can be the basis for a rapid arrangement between Israel and Lebanon with the participation of the United States. However, what is happening here -- and I am saying this out of profound friendship toward the United States; I would not at all suggest that we grade people in Israel according to their friendliness toward the United States -- is that the United States wants to link the Lebanese issue to comprehensive arrangements in the region and, as part of this attempt and as its first step, is striving to pave the way to Husayn to join negotiations over the future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza not based on the Camp David accords.

Undoubtedly, that was the factor, with a capital F, that led to a hardening of the Lebanese positions. It is inconceivable that the Lebanese should be ready for arrangements and normalization that go beyond what the Americans suggest that they accept or agree to.

Why did the Americans see the need to pressure Israel to withdraw from Lebanon without assuring its necessary security needs on its northern border and how does this fit in with the attempt to seduce Husayn to join the negotiations? That is the basic question that calls for a truthful answer in order to understand the argument and dispute with the United States.

Everybody is asking: What does the United States want to prove to Husayn?

Why do they repeatedly announced through official and unofficial channels that Israel is being urged to evacuate its forces by mid-February? What is it about this date assigned by the Americans for the IDF's evacuation from Lebanon?

This date is related to the general activity that the United States has been conducting in the region: the attempt to include Husayn in the negotiations according to the Reagan plan; the meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers next month; Husayn's tours of the Arab countries; 'Arafat's shuttles -- the entire area is in turmoil and an "eve of agreement" atmosphere is hovering over it. Everything is seething and moving, there is general action; Mubarak is flying to Washington, Morocco's King Hassan has already been there.

The Americans are wrong and when friends are wrong they should be told so, particularly on issues that might be fateful to Israel and, in my opinion, also to the United States. They are wrong because they want to prove that Israel can be made to give in under pressure on its obvious security needs. "We will twist Israel's arm," the Americans tell Husayn and other Arab leaders.

We explain most of our claims regarding Judaea and Samaria mainly with security considerations. It may be our mistake that we did not say that Judaea and Samaria are part of our historic motherland and we confined our explanations to the security plane. Also in Lebanon we demand security and security arrangements. In other words, there is today a parallel between the arguments both regarding Lebanon and Judaea and Samaria. The Americans are entertaining the illusion that they will tell Husayn: "Look here, Israel claimed security needs in Lebanon and it paid a heavy price to attain them. However, under our heavy pressure it was forced to give up in spite of the heavy price and all the declarations of its Cabinet that it will insist on security arrangements. Therefore, we will act likewise in Judaea and Samaria. The Israelis speak the same words there, with the security considerations. You trust us, we will also exert the necessary pressure there."

Hence, Lebanon is the test and we are currently going through a trial period. We must hold out through this dispute with the United States, as both the prime minister, the defense minister, myself and the entire Cabinet are doing.

It must be understood that time is an important factor here. If Husayn realizes that Israel's arm cannot be bent and there are no chances for its withdrawal from Lebanon without assuring Israel its necessary security terms, he will obviously realize that this cannot be done in Judaea and Samaria either. Then all this daydreaming about political solutions deviating from the Israeli Government's autonomy plan will have no reason to exist.

I also want coordination with the United States, no less than others. However, this does not mean that coordination implies that Israel must go back on its positions all the time. That is not coordination.

In spite of our desire to avoid differences of opinion with our only friend, there is no other choice but to go through it if we want to reject imposed solutions on other borders.

Question: I want to understand this clearly. Are you saying that the United States is to blame for the freeze in the talks with Lebanon?

Answer: I am saying that even what we have achieved so far is based entirely on the working paper agreed upon with the Lebanese. This holds true regarding the establishment of the various committees, the venues of the debates, the agreement on the agenda, deliberations about ending the state of war, and the clauses about normalizing relations, even if it is not called this. All that was included in the agreed-upon working paper. What is true is that today, in many respects, we are faced with the same situation that existed prior to the agreement on the working paper -- and the United States is largely responsible for it. I say this without detracting from the difficulties of the Lebanese to go from secret and confidential negotiations to overt negotiations.

Question: Did the agreed-upon working paper speak about definite time during which Israel would maintain early warning stations in Lebanon?

Answer: The plan Israel submitted to the United States and Lebanon stated that the stations would remain in Lebanon until a peace treaty is achieved between Israel and Lebanon. However, it was agreed in the working paper that the early warning stations would be maintained for as long as decided by the governments in the negotiations. That is the exact wording.

Question: How releveant is the claim that if Lebanon agrees to Israeli warning stations on its territory, the Syrians will also demand stations on Lebanese soil and will refuse to withdraw if such a promise is not made to them?

Answer: First of all, Israel and Syria are not in the same situation. Israel and its citizens were plagued for many years with terrorist attacks and bloody raids from Lebanese territory. Such activities were never perpetrated against Syria and its citizens from Lebanese territory. In contrast, the Syrian forces in Lebanon were a central factor that enabled the terrorists to entrench in Lebanon and operate from there against Israel and its citizens. Therefore, there are no grounds to the claim that there is some kind of symmetry between Israel and Syria on this issue.

Nevertheless, if the question arises that the existence of Israeli early warning stations also calls for a number of Syrian stations on Lebanese soil, this arrangement is better than the absence of an Israeli presence for a certain period of time in the security zone in southern Lebanon.

Question: Will Israel agree to this?

Answer: There is no room for such symmetry, it is not justified, and Israel will be opposed to it. Nevertheless, Israeli and Syrian stations -- that is better than the possibility of not having any Israeli stations.

Question: Regardless of the Syrian demand for symmetry, what right has Israel to demand early warning stations on Lebanese territory? After all, we are talking about restoring Lebanon's sovereignty. Which sovereign country would agree to have foreign army forces on its territory?

Answer: This does not constitute any infringement or harm of Lebanon's sovereignty. It is a question of a very limited military presence for a predetermined period of time, according to an agreement between the two countries.

There is no resemblance between such a presence and the current Syrian occupation which comprises almost half of Lebanon's territory; the Syrians maintain over 1,100 tanks and about 30,000 to 40,000 troops there. There is no resemblance between the Israeli early warning stations and the current situation whereby there are several thousand terrorists in northern and eastern Lebanon.

Does such a situation in the slightest resemble a situation whereby very limited IDF forces are stationed in definite points for definite periods of time? There are precedents is the sovereignty of the European countries infringed by the presence of U.S. troops there? Is Panama's sovereignty infringed by its agreement to have U.S. troops stationed there until 2001? Look, even the Egyptians agreed to restrict their sovereignty over the Sinai Desert indefinitely because that area was used to deploy against Israel.

Question: What should be the physical character of the Israeli stations?

Answer: Using the term early warning stations is misleading. We are used to using it in the agreements with Egypt. The stations in Lebanon would be of an entirely different character. We call them: "anti-terror supervisory stations," this is the right definition. The Sinai is not populated, whereas Lebanon is densely populated. The purpose of the stations in Lebanon is to give Israel early warning about the resumption of terrorist intentions to attack Israel. If Israel learns such information it would immediately report it to Lebanon through the joint Israeli-Lebanese supervisory committee, which must be established according to the agreement. The intention is to prevent a recurrence of a situation where the terrorists may resume their activities in Lebanon. It is not a question of electronic devices which may be operated by U.S. soldiers. In this case, our men -- who are irreplaceable -- must operate them. They must be familiar with the Lebanese picture, they must know the area and the population structure.

Question: Will the mission of the IDF soldiers in the stations also be to restrain hostile moves against Israel?

Answer: No, that is the duty of the Lebanese Army and police forces, and Major Haddad's forces must be awarded a special status. The stations will be necessary until the Lebanese security forces are capable of undertaking this mission.

Question: Although the IDF fully controls the area today, a Katyusha shell fell near Zar'it this week and fire was opened at the "Lebanon Beach Hotel" in Khaldah. If such phenomena cannot be prevented today, how will they be prevented after the withdrawal even if several Israeli early warning stations remain in Lebanon?

Answer: That is exactly the reason why we demand security arrangements in all of Lebanon, and that the terrorists be driven out of the entire Lebanese territory. That is exactly the reason why UNIFIL -- from whose area fire was opened at Zar'it -- and a multinational force -- from whose area fire was opened at the "Lebanon Beach Hotel" -- cannot guarantee Israel's interests after the withdrawal. Until the Peace for Galilee war, several -- not all -- UNIFIL units cooperated with the terrorists. Terrorists set out from the areas currently controlled by the U.S. Marines and through their lines to perpetrate attacks against Israel. It is absolutely clear to me that the Marines do not want the terrorists to cross through their lines. However, the fact is that they cross through their lines in the Beirut area. When the IDF withdraws from Lebanon this problem will become much more serious. For many years Israel paid a very dear price for Lebanon's willingness to allow the terrorists to operate against Israel from its territory. Only in the last few years did the Lebanese Government lose [as published, line apparently dropped in the original] it earlier signed on the "Cairo agreement" which provided for terrorist operations against Israel from Lebanese territory. It is impossible that Israel should not have the moral right to demand security arrangements in the security zone.

Question: Where does Israel demand to establish its stations?

Answer: In the Sidon area and near An-Nabatiyah, which were terrrorist centers until the Peace for Galilee Operation.

Question: Were Lebanon to agree to sign a full peace treaty with Israel, would Israel even then demand special security arrangements and a military presence in southern Lebanon?

Answer: Even in a situation of peace the Israeli demand to maintain anti-terror supervisory stations is morally valid and justified. When it agreed to completely demilitarize an area of 150 kms, Egypt was also forced to pay a price due to the fact that the Sinai had been a springboard against Israel. Nevertheless, we distinguish between two situations. If there is full peace between Israel and Lebanon there would be no need for a special status in southern Lebanon. In the absence of a peace treaty, there must be a temporary special status in southern Lebanon of which the Israeli supervisory stations and the special status of Haddad's forces are central components. It may be easier to sign a full peace treaty... that is a better idea.

Question: The possibility of a violent confrontation between IDF soldiers and U.S. Marines scares not only the U.S. secretary of defense and others in the United States but also Israeli citizens. Can't this danger be averted by issuing explicit orders to IDF commanders?

Answer: We are making every possible effort to prevent clashes between Israeli and U.S. soldiers. It is our uppermost wish to avert this. The orders I issued on this subject are severe and unambigious. They explicitly state that even if our forces detect terrorists who, after attempting to attack our forces, retreat through the U.S. Marines' positions, our forces should categorically and under no circumstances whatsoever cross the railroad line which was decided on 25 September 1982 as a boundary separating our forces and the U.S. Marines.

Question: According to reports, the Americans claim that no boundary was set and that no such agreement exists.

Answer: This boundary was set in a lengthy meeting held in my home on Saturday, 25 September, 1982 with the participation of Habib, Lewis, Draper, the IDF chief of staff the director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and other senior officials of the Israeli security services. It was then explained to the Americans that the boundary of our forces would be the railroad, and they agreed to this.

Question: Why then do they caution about a clash between IDF forces and the Marines, and why should they do that?

Answer: For two reasons: to increase pressure on Israel to withdraw and to tarnish its reputation in the United States. For many months, the terrorists did not cross through the U.S. lines. Indeed, they have increasingly begun to organize recently in the terrorist neighborhoods in West Beirut, albeit in small numbers; they are protected by the multinational force. The measures we have taken in coordination with the Marine commanders guarantee that clashes do not occur between IDF soldiers and U.S. Marines.

Question: Through the order not to cross the railroad, we are in effect sypplying the terrorists with a safe haven, protected by the U.S. Marines...

Answer: This is another decisively important reason why we do not agree that a multinational force or UNIFIL separate the IDF and the terrorists. However, as long as the Marines and other forces separate the IDF and the terrorists neighborhoods, we must avert a confrontation between Israeli soldiers and U.S. Marines, even if this carries a certain price.

Question: The fact that the Soviet Union kept a low profile during the Lebanese war was interpreted as impotence. How do you interpret the stationing of SAM-5's in Syria? Is it clear that henceforth Israel will have to take into consideration a more feasible possibility of Soviet intervention in the event of a new flare-up?

Answer: I don't think that there should be a new flare-up. As far as we are concerned, there is no reason for it and we have no interest in a conflagration. We did not want any conflagration with the Syrians, not even during the Peace for Galilee war.

Also in the past, we assessed -- and it seems to me that we were not mistaken -- that there is a difference between warlike activities on Lebanese soil and belligerent action on Syrian territory, since there was and still is a Soviet commitment toward Syria's security. This is also one of the reasons why we made every possible effort not to expand the war beyond what was necessary in Lebanon proper.

It should be understood that the Syrians were dealt a very severe blow due to their intervention in the war. The war and its consequences also constituted a severe shock to the prestige of the Soviets, whose weapons were destroyed and devastated. The Soviet Union had no other choice but to strengthen the antiaircraft defense system in the wake of what happened.

The stationing of the SAM-5's is not a Soviet reaction to the stationing of U.S. forces in Beirut, but is mainly the result of the severe blow dealt by the Israeli Air Force to the Syrian missile deployment and air force.

Question: Due to their long range, about 300 kms, the Soviet missiles are also threatening the aircraft of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. May it be assumed that if Israel destroyed these missiles the United States would not be sorry?

Answer: Israel has no reason to attack the missiles. I read the report in NEWSWEEK alleging that I recommended to the Cabinet launching an attack on the missiles before the arrival of 1,200 Soviet troops. The opposite is true; I recommended that the missiles not be touched. We have lived with the threat of missiles in the past and we knew how to come up with the appropriate answers without changing our daily routine. Today, too, no Israeli aircraft will change its route, and daily security activities will not change due to the stationing of the missiles. We have a problem here and the most appropriate answer must be supplied to it: alertness is called for. Surface-to-surface "Scud" missiles are stationed in Syria that cover all the population centers in Israel. We also have an answer to that. I would prefer it if instead of sending missiles the Soviets talked with us.

Question: Do you see any reasonable chances that other African countries will follow in Zaire's footsteps and resume relations with us soon?

Answer: When I spoke about this over a year ago during my first visit there, about the fact that the establishment of security ties with Zaire would pave the way for a wide spectrum of relations, people thought nothing of it or sneered. Over a year has passed and Israel and Zaire have reestablished diplomatic relations. There is an Israeli ambassador in Kinshasa and Israeli flags are flying all over the place, from the shores of Lake Tanganyika to the mouth of the Congo River. Israeli activity is expanding in all fields. It is impossible for other African countries not to see the blessing inherent in cooperation with Israel. It is impossible for them not to notice the benefit that would come out of such a relationship. It is impossible for them not to envy President Mobutu's independent stance.

Therefore, even if it takes time, our activities in Zaire and the expanding economic and agricultural cooperation will lead to a resumption of relations with other African states.

TUNISIA

LEBANON'S AL-WAZZAN ARRIVES IN TUNIS 30 JAN

NC310742 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Jan 83

[Excerpts] In a statement he made after his arrival in Tunis last night, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan affirmed the Lebanese Government's determination to reimpose its legal authority over all of Lebanon and to put an end to the occupation. He said:

[Begin recording] While deeply wounded and pained, we have come here in the course of a tour that includes dear Tunisia to hold consultations with its officials on everything that will help us to emerge from the crisis we are in as a result of the unjust Israeli occupation.

Of course, you know that negotiations are taking place in Lebanon to end this Israeli occupation and to liberate the homeland. Many matters have been raised in this respect. We are members of the one Arab family. It is necessary in this serious stage -- while what is at stake is a homeland that has always loved its Arab brothers and carried their banner and the banner of their causes and adopted their major issue, the sacred Palestinian issue -- that we must hold full consultations with our Arab brothers. Our visit today comes within this framework.

I hope that we shall succeed in our meetings with the officials. If there is a possibility to have other meetings in this homeland, which hosts the Arab League and many officials working in the Arab and the Palestinian fields, we shall be happy to do that.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Lebanon is not prepared to change its position on basic matters pertaining to its sovereignty, freedom, and independence. We have said this once. Despite the pressures from here and there, and especially from Israel, which is making many interventions in Lebanon and causing some problems, disturbances, we stand fast on our right and will not give up one bit of our sovereignty and national dignity.

[Question] The greater Beirut plan, Mr Prime Minister, what are [words indistinct] success?

[Answer] I am afraid that some statements have been misinterpreted. When we talk about greater Beirut today, we mean greater Beirut from the security aspect. In other words, we are seeking to make the capital and some of its suburbs enjoy all the security benefits through the presence of the security authorities and tightening their grip on this area.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, regarding your possible meeting with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], does it have anything to do with the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Answer] If circumstances permit us to have such a meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar is one of our Arab brothers who is concerned about us just as we are concerned about their issue. We will be happy to meet with any Arab official. Of course, in this stage, we are interested in what is happening in Lebanon. The negotiations are our main preoccupation, because they are currently our way to end the occupation, if they succeed within the limits we have made for ourselves -- I mean the limits of full sovereignty, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 500 and 509 which have established this right by calling for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. [end recording]

TANZANIA

27 HELD FOR PLOTTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT

EA281752 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] A total of 27 people appeared at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court this morning, accused of plotting to overthrow the government by unconstitutional means. A statement issued by the inspector general of police, Ndugu Liani, said that the accused persons, who include soldiers and civilians, appeared before Chief Resident Magistrate Ndugu (Masanthe). According to the statement, all 27 accused persons were ordered by the court to remain in custody until their case comes up for another mention. The statement explained that no other people apart from the 27 were arrested in connection with the issue. However, investigations are going on.

Two weeks ago Ndugu Liani said in a statement that several people were arrested and they were helping the police in investigating conspiracy to cause disturbance and embarrass the country earlier this month. He said the conspiracy was uncovered by members of the Tanzania People's Defense Forces, who reported the matter to the government for appropriate action. The statement further said that the Tanzania People's Defense Forces was in no way involved in the plot.

ZIMBABAE'S MUGABE CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

Urges Regional Defense Force

MB271823 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has called on the southern African countries to form a regional defense force to repulse any invasions by the Pretoria regime on any of the frontline states. Addressing students and lecturers at the University of Dar es Salaam today, Comrade Mugabe said as long as apartheid-ruled South Africa exists, both national and regional development problems will continue to be threatened. Comrade Mugabe expressed the hope that such a defense force has to be formed within the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC. The prime minister's address at the University of Dar es Salaam comes as a series of tours and talks during his 5-day official visit to Tanzania [as heard].

Turning on the Zimbabwe political and economic situation, Comrade Mugabe said his government is facing financial and skilled manpower problems. However, he warned that these problems are common to all Third World countries, and nobody should view them in the Zimbabwe situation as sign of failure on the part of the government to build socialism.

The prime minister is expected to arrive in Harare tomorrow at midday.

Warning on 'Dissenting Whites'

MB281531 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, says he will build a socialist society in Zimbabwe and has warned that he will use force against dissenting whites.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Mr Mugabe said there was still a significant number of whites in Zimbabwe who refuse to accept the reality of political change. He said that when action was taken against the whites, Britain and its allies would probably protest, but he said he would tell them off.

Mr Mugabe said that if the socialist program for Zimbabwe failed to get off the ground quickly capitalists would be quick to point out that socialism had failed. He also called on southern African countries to form a regional defense force within the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Joint Communique on Visit

EA281907 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania and Zimbabwe have defined their stand on regional cooperation and the Organization of African Unity and on the political situation in southern Africa.

A joint communique issued in Dar es Salaam today at the end of a 5-day official visit to Tanzania by the Zimbabwean prime minister, Ndugu Robert Mugabe, said the two countries reiterated the importance they attach to the attainment of subregional economic cooperation in the continent. The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to the aims and principles of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

The communique said President Nyerere and Ndugu Mugabe underlined the need for the continued existence of the OAU as a vital continental body. The two leaders recognized that despite its weakness, the OAU remained the sole voice of Africa. They stated that the problems of the organizations were not unique but were part of the struggle to consolidate Africa's unity.

On the situation in southern Africa, the leaders noted that the racist regime of Pretoria had intensified the aggressiveness of its destabilization policy in the region. They condemned Pretoria's unprovoked attacks, invasion, occupation, economic blackmail, and sabotage in the frontline states and other neighboring states. They urged the national liberation movements in South Africa to intensify the struggle on all fronts. Mwulimu Nyerere and Ndugu Mugabe also reaffirmed their total and unequivocal support to the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO. They disapproved the idea of linking Namibia's independence with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON ROLE OF OAU

EA292308 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Maiduguri, Nigeria: Foreign Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim today called on all African leaders and diplomats to use all their skills and experience to preserve the Organization of African Unity, which is threatened by divisions. He said because of its anticolonialist stance and its effectiveness in uniting Africa, the OAU is currently under attack from the imperialist forces who seek to immobilize it and divert its spearheading role against colonialism.

In an acceptance speech on the occasion of being conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Maiduguri, in northeastern Nigeria, Ndugu Salim said besides other factors, the OAU is under attack for its past successes. He noted that OAU support for all liberation movements in the continent, particularly inside Namibia and South Africa, has been a vital pillar of support and legitimacy for African and nonaligned strategies and a major factor behind the successes of the liberation struggle on the diplomatic front.

Ndugu Salim received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of his achievements contributions and commitment in international affairs.

GHANA

BORDER WITH TOGO OPENED AT AFLAO 29 JANUARY

AB290724 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] The government has opened Ghana's border with Togo at Aflao to enable Ghanians being deported from Nigeria to return home safely. An official statement issued in Accra said the border will remain open daily from 0600 to 1800 and it would be restricted temporarily to traffic from Togo. The commander of the task force set up by the government to organize the evacuation exercise, Commander (Obimpe) has said that reception and medical centers have been set up at Aflao to help Ghanaians coming back home from Nigeria by land. Commander (Obimpe) added that Ghana navy ships and some fishing trawlers have joined in the evacuation exercise and they are ferrying passengers from Benin.

Thousands Enter

AB300757 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The evacuation of stranded Ghanian nationals by the task force set up by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] at the Benin and Togo borders is reported to be going on smoothly despite the intensity of the program. Thousands are crossing into the country following the reopening of Ghana's borders with Togo. Most of them arrived in Accra last night. A Ghana Broadcasting Corporation correspondent who was at Aflao said the affected Ghanaians jubilated as they entered their land of freedom. They sang praises of the chairman of the PNDC for delivering them from torture and hardship, while at the same time they denounced the atrocities meted out to them by the Nigerian Government. Our correspondent says right from the Denu checkpoint several hundreds of those who could get chance of the vehicles mobilized by government [words indistinct] by the road side awaiting any available opportunity to get to their destination. Many others dared make the journey on foot.

Unlike the early arrivals, those coming in now managed to bring in their belongings. Although they were subjected to the normal formalities, business was brisk but hectic. Others, who chartered transport straight from Nigeria upon hearing of the opening of the borders, were escorted by dispatch riders, police, and border guard personnel to accompany them to Accra. The commander in charge of the Aflao border post, briefing newsmen, commended the people of Aflao for coming to the aid of their compatriots with the preparation of extra food items to meet their demand. He also commended highly the Togolese minister of interior who, he said, was on hand on the other side of the border to direct traffic personally and for seeing to the orderly evacuation of stranded Ghanaians in Togo. Togolese taxi drivers and owners of other vehicles were also commended for the role they are playing in the exercise.

Meanwhile, the Volta Region evacuation exercise has set up a transit camp at the border guard training center at (Kokoe) for those coming in on their own through the bush paths around the Volta Region. Vehicles were dispatched to the various border posts to bring them in after which they were conveyed to their various home regions. According to a customs and excise official, those who came in through the various points were not subjected to much vigorous vetting. Rather, they are being treated as what he described as those moving from one house to another.

100,000 Cross at Aflao

AB301216 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 30 Jan 83

[By Francois-Xavier Harispe]

[Excerpts] Lagos, Jan 30 (AFP) -- With twenty-four hours to go before Nigeria's expulsion deadline to its illegal immigrants expired, Ghanaians remaining in the Nigerian capital today had reason to hope they could return home by land following the temporary reopening of their country's borders.

At the Togolese-Ghanaian border point of Aflao, Ghanaians today were steadily returning home after the temporary reopening of the frontier yesterday by Ghanaian authorities. An estimated 100,000 Ghanaians had already crossed by foot or by car, and Ghanaian authorities yesterday kept the checkpoint open until midnight instead of the original deadline of 6:00 p.m. imposed because of a curfew still operative in Ghana.

RAWLINGS: EVACUATION TO COST 40 MILLION CEDIS

AB282031 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] It will cost the government about 12 million cedis to bring down 300,000 Ghanaians from Nigeria. This means that the government would spend nearly 40 million cedis to evacuate the estimated 1 million Ghanaians in Nigeria. These startling figures were given by the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, when he addressed the passing out ceremony of 20 rural health cadres who had completed a 3-month basic health training course at the Okomfo Anokye teaching hospital in Kumasi. He said the government is paying $43,000 for each trip of the Black Star line vessels to bring back the deportees. He advised the new cadres not to steal drugs but to use them to serve the rural people.

NIGERIA

ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO STAY TO BE ARRESTED

AB300629 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] Any illegal alien that did not leave Nigeria by the stipulated deadline will be arrested and repatriated. This was stated by President Shehu Shagari at a world news conference in New Delhi shortly before he left for Pakistan. The president announced that the deadline for the immigrants to leave has been extended to 4 weeks. The extension, he said, only applied to those aliens who were employed or engaged in private business. They are expected, in case of those employed, to obtain work permits and those in private business, to obtain resident permits within the period. Others not employed and engaged in private business must leave the country within the original 2 weeks quit notice.

The president is leaving Islamabad, Pakistan, today on a visit to Lahore and Karachi. From Karachi, he flies to Jidda to perform the 'Umrah Metaha. [a minor pilgrimage] He returns to Lagos on Tuesday.

POLITICAL REFUGEES WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN

AB291039 Paris AFP in French 1008 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, 29 Jan (AFP) -- Many political refugees, mainly those from Ghana and Chad, will remain in Nigeria despite the expiration of the deadline on Monday set for the departure of the majority of the illegal immigrants from Nigeria.

The expulsion order does not include political refugees, official sources in Lagos confirmed yesterday. This provision concerns mainly the numerous Ghanaian political refugees who have been in Nigeria for a year following the coup d'etat by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, and also Chadian nationals.

A few days ago, two Chadian who signed the Lagos accord in August 1979 on behalf of their faction, Mahamat Abba Seid, former minister of interior in Goukouni Oueddei's Tansitional National Unity Government and Abdoulaye Adoum Dana of the Volcan Army, came to plead with the Nigerian authorities for tens of thousand of Chadians who have taken "refuge" in northern Nigeria since Hissein Habre came to power in Chad on 7 June last year.

FOREIGN TEACHERS NOT AFFECTED BY QUIT ORDER

AB290923 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The Lagos state commissioner for education, Dr Olawale Idriss, said that all Ghanaians and other foreign nationals employed as teachers in the state are no longer affected by the quit order of the Federal Government on illegal immigrants. Dr Idriss said that in view of the clarification of the policy on aliens residing illegally in Nigeria made by the minister of internal affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba, it was clear that foreign nationals engaged in the Lagos State Teaching Service should stay on their posts, but assured that the state government will help to regularize the state of such teachers in the country with the Department of Immigration Services.

TOGO

EYADEMA RETURNS TO BORDER, MEETS KEREKOU

AB300836 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Excerpts] As he did last Thursday, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic, yesterday morning went to Sanvee-Condji at the Togo-Benin border where he met his counterpart from the People's Republic of Benin, Colonel Mathieu Kerekou, and was present at the departure of the Ghanaian refugees. On the occasion of this second visit, President Eyadema recalled the humanitarian assistance which Togo and the social organizations have given to the expelled persons.

ANGOLA

DIPLOMAT COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

No Concessions for U.S.

NC281128 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Lisbon, Jan. 28 (AFP) -- Angola is not prepared to make any concessions to obtain diplomatic recognition by the United States, Angolan Ambassador to Portugal Fernando van Dunem said here today.

Mr van Dunem, in an interview with the semi-official DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, said that talks between Angola and South Africa, which were begun at a first meeting in Cape Verde on December 8, would probably produce a provisional ceasefire between the two countries.

(South African forces, which are fighting a bush war in Namibia against guerrillas of the South-West African People's Organisation, frequently operate across Namibia's northern border with Angola.

The ambassador denied that his government was involved in any other negotiations with South Africa.

No Agreement 'Yet'

AB281228 Luanda ANGOP in French 1132 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Lisbon, 28 Jan (ANGOP) -- In an interview with the Portuguese news agency (ANOP), Franca van Dunem, Angola's ambassador to Portugal, said there is no agreement yet between Angola and South Africa.

There has been no meeting between the two parties since that held on Sal Island, Cape Verde, on 8 December, the Angolan diplomat added. He said two main problems were discussed during that meeting -- the independence of Namibia and the situation in southern Angola.

Franca van Dunem further said that during the Cape Verde meeting, the two parties submitted proposals that deserve serious consideration. He said the Sal meeting was encouraging and promising. Meanwhile, Angola does not know of any new proposals made by the South African Government concerning the two main issues discussed in December, concluded the Angolan diplomat, referring to the reports published in Johannesburg, stating that a bilateral meeting could be held soon in the French capital.

MOZAMBIQUE PAPER CITED ON RSA PLAN FOR ATTACK

MB281525 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] The Mozambique Defense Ministry newspaper, COMBATE, said that maneuvers by South African troops are an indication of a large-scale attack against the People's Republic of Angola. The newspaper refers to the deployment of troops and war materiel in South African military bases in Namibia along the Angolan border from which repeated incursions are carried out inside Angolan territory.

According to COMBATE, the South African regime has increased the number of its troops operating in the southern provinces of the People's Republic of Angola, which have been invaded by South African military operatives. The newspaper revealed that the total number of South African troops operating in southern Angola now exceeds 5,000 men.

Pretoria's increasingly aggressive behavior is the direct result of support from international imperialism, particularly support from the United States, for South Africa's expansionist policy. Such a policy is designed to undermine the independence of the countries in the region and to crush the continent's national liberation movements.

SOUTH AFRICA

ENVOY RETURNS FROM ANGOLAN TALKS; NO DETAILS

MB281353 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1119 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Mr Adriaan Eksteen of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who held talks in the Cape Verde Islands this week on a possible further meeting with Angolan representatives, has reported back to the minister of foreign affairs and information. Although no details of his discussions have been disclosed, the recent visit of the Cape Verde's foreign minister to Angola is an indication that further talks between South Africa and Angola are a strong possibility.

BOTHA ON NAMIBIA, CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA

AB281040 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 28 Jan 83

[Text] Cape Town, Jan 28 (AFP) -- The withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and a ceasefire along Angola's border with Namibia are essential preconditions for application of any settlement on Namibia, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said here Thursday night.

Mr Botha said that the key to United Nations Resolution 435, which sets out an independence plan for the South African-administered territory, was a state of peace.

Briefing the foreign press corps on the eve of the formal opening of a new session of parliament, he warned that the situation in Namibia would deteriorate further and hopes of a settlement be dashed unless peace was established.

South Africa, which administers the territory in defiance of the United Nations, is fighting a bush war there against the army of Sam Nugoma's South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

The minister confirmed that senior diplomat Adriaan Eksteen was in the West African Republic of Cape Verde, negotiating with local officials -- and possibly with Angolan representatives -- the arrangements for a further round of talks between the South African and Angolan Governments.

He indirectly denied reports that the two sides had already agreed on a ceasefire and seemed pessimistic as to the outcome of any future talks. According to reliable sources here the talks were initiated by Angola.

Mr Botha said there was a mutual lack of confidence in Luanda and Pretoria, and each side had to convince the other of its genuine interest in peace. He hinted that Angola was not interested in peace at this time.

A withdrawal of the several thousand Cuban troops based in Angola was essential prior to any elections in Namibia. The UN Namibia proposals were unacceptable, he said, since they would permit some 30,000 Cuban troops to remain in Angola while South Africa would be allowed only 1,500 soldiers in Namibia.

If that was what the United Nations and the rest of the world wanted then "the sooner we come to a confrontation, the better," he said.

"We are not going to be led up that sort of garden path."

Mr Botha said that the United States had taken sole responsibility for unblocking the Namibia negotiations, a role it previously shared with the four other members of the Western contact group, Britain, Canada, France and West Germany. However he thought that the United States did not take any steps without first assuring themselves that their partners would agree.

South Africa believed that a Cuban withdrawal was "the task of the Americans." South Africa's talks with Angola concerned only bilateral relations, he said.

The foreign minister said that South Africa could give Angola guarantees with regard to the actions of its own troops in southern Angola, but could not speak for the Angolan antigovernment movement UNITA, led by Jonas Savimbi.

His remarks seemed to contradict reports that Pretoria was prepared to halt its military support for UNITA.

Mr Botha said that South Africa intended to continue inter-government negotiations started with Mozambique on their common border last month.

ZIMBABWE

SECURITY MINISTER: NO LETUP AGAINST DISSIDENTS

AB291229 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 29 Jan 83

[Text] Harare, Jan. 29 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's government forces will not curtail the current operations to wipe-out armed dissidents in the southwestern area, even if some innocent civilians are killed, according to Minister of State for Security Sydnye Sekeramayi.

Mr. Sekeramayi was responding to yesterday's call by opposition leader Joshua Nkomo for the government to halt what he called the "carnage" of civilians in the southwestern area known as Matabeleland. Mr. Nkomo said that 47 and possibly as many as 95 people were killed by government forces in the province this week.

But Mr. Sekeramanyi was reported in the pro-government HERALD newspaper today as saying: "There will be no letting up of the present campaign but if, as it happens in any situation, some people are caught up (in crossfire), it is regrettable."

For almost a year Zimbabwe's Matabeleland area has been plagued by robberies, kidnappings and more than 70 killings by anti-government rebels who are generally believed to be former members of Mr. Nkomo's disbanded wartime guerrilla army.

Mr. Sekeramayi said that to end the dissident problem security forces would be relentless and there would be "no compromise" in crushing dissidents.

The government has dismissed as "a load of rubbish" Mr. Nkomo's allegations and pointed out that he had erred in saying that former Zimbabwe-Rhodesian President Josiah Gumede was killed this week. The official Zimbabwe News Agency reported that Mr. Gumede was reached yesterday by phone and he said he is alive and well.

But the government has not issued a categorical denial of Mr. Nkomo's and other opposition politicians' claim that Matabeleland civilians are being killed by security forces.

The HERALD editorial today denounced Mr. Nkomo for "running a vicious campaign against the government" and said he is "guilty of trying to paint a bad image of the country's security forces."

The editorial quoted government leaders as saying the problem lay with Mr. Nkomo and his Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) Party, which is centered in the southwest, for aiding armed dissidents.

"Dissidents survived because they operated within ZAPU structure and to date no ZAPU official has denied that assertion," the editorial said.

Minister Sekeramayi said that the security forces will continue "carrying out tasks aimed exclusively at neutralizing the dissidents and the infrastructure that has been sustaining the dissidents in the area."

Mr. Sekeramayi blamed the Matabeleland people, who are generally of the minority Ndebele-speaking tribes and supporters of Mr Nkomo's party.

None of the villagers in Matabeleland were willing to tell the security forces anything and the ZAPU leadership also did not help the forces in their pursuit of dissidents, he was quoted as saying.

CURFEW EXTENDED TO MATABELELAND DISTRICTS

MB301211 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 30 Jan 83

[Text] The dusk-to-dawn curfew which has been imposed in certain districts in Matabeleland has also been extended to the (Dette) Administrative District. Under the curfew order, which came into effect yesterday, no person in (Dette) District will be permitted to move 50 meters from his home between the sunset and sunrise.

Other areas of Matabeleland affected by the curfew are: Nkai, Tjolotjo, Lupane, Nyamandhlovu, and (Bubi) Districts. In the Midlands the curfew has been imposed in the Umniati and (Jombe) areas covering the area along (Sekwazi) Dam up to (Ngondoma) Dam.